the UE
Otsego & Plainwell
UNION ENTERPRISE
FREE
Volume 70, Issue 30 · www.wilcoxnewspapers.com
Thursday, January 23, 2025

Unified Champion Schools program expands in Otsego

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Otsego Public Schools started the Unified Champion Schools program in the district at Otsego High School. This past fall, UCS athletes at OHS competed in soccer. (Photo provided)

The Unified Champion Schools program is expanding at Otsego Public Schools.

The program, which started at Otsego High School two years ago, is now also being offered at Dix Street Elementary and Otsego Middle School.

A Special Olympics initiative, Unified Champion Schools (UCS) promotes inclusion by providing opportunities for special education students to participate in various athletic competitions.

Allie Rittenhouse brought the program to OPS when she was a special education teacher at Otsego High School. She now teaches preschool-aged children at Dix Street.

"I wanted to expand the program to my new building to bring this wonderful experience and opportunity to more students and families," Rittenhouse said.

At Dix Street, Rittenhouse started Young Athletes, which is a Unified Champion Schools program for ages eight and younger. Young Athletes focuses on building fundamental skills like kicking, throwing and following directions.

"We have been conducting the program once a week since the beginning of the year during the school day," Rittenhouse said. "I am able to do this with the support of our district occupational therapist Tayler Dendel and the district physical therapist Maureen Gast as well as my paraprofessional Christina Back.

"We are expanding to include some kindergarten students in February."

Rittenhouse also wanted to offer Unified Champions to the older students (second through fifth grade) at Dix Street, with basketball as the chosen sport. The idea was met with support by the school's two Level 2 teachers as well as principal Sarah Taylor.

"Next, I needed to find a general education teacher who was willing to help me make it happen and invite students from their class to participate," Rittenhouse said. "Brooke Heid was that teacher. And as a bonus, she actually coaches basketball."

Permission slips with information about the program were sent home, and Dix Street now has a team of 18 athletes and partners.

The partners, also called Links, are from Heid's class.

"Brooke invited 10 students from her class that she felt would be a good fit and understand their role in supporting and helping the athletes succeed," Rittenhouse said. "It is not about getting the most athletic students or the smartest kids. It's about getting those students who want to be involved and those who can help support our athletes succeed, have fun, and build friendships.

At Dix Street, practices for participants will be held each Friday during the school day in January, February and into mid-March.

The first game is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 13, at Zeeland. Tipoff is 4:45 p.m. Other games include:

* Friday, Feb. 21, at Jenison at 11:30 a.m.

* Friday, Feb. 28, at Otsego High School at 10:30 a.m.

* Wednesday, March 5, at Byron Center at 11 a.m.

The season concludes with a tournament on Wednesday, March 12, at the Special Olympics Inclusion Center in Grand Rapids from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The game at OHS on Feb. 28 will be officiated by OPS superintendent Jeff Haase.

"We have support from Special Olympics UCS with volunteer coaches to help with practices from Americorp," Rittenhouse said. "Additionally, I am able to support the Dix Street UCS basketball team because Macy Merchant, the new Level 2 teacher at the high school, has taken leadership and is coaching and scheduling games for the OHS UCS basketball team.

"To say it takes a village is an understatement. I would not be able to run UCS at any level without the wonderful support from everyone around me."

At Otsego Middle School, meanwhile, the UCS program began in November under the leadership of Stormie Moore.

"Stormie reached out to me and asked for support and guidance in starting the program at the middle school," Rittenhouse said. "I was able to provide that support and guidance for her to take the lead and start their team."

Like the high school UCS program, the middle school hold practice after school and has several games and tournaments scheduled.

Having the program available to more students in the district is important to Rittenhouse, as she knows the positive impact USC has on participants.

"I see the joy and excitement all the students have when at practices and games," she said. "I hear from families and teachers how their child or student can't wait for practice or gets the biggest smile on their face when they hear they have practice or a game that day. I see how inclusion helps them feel like everyone else and be more confident. I see them telling others about their game and how they performed.

"It helps our athletes feel like everyone else. They are a part of a team when typically they don't get picked or make the cut. I also see partners who also didn't make the team flourish and shine on ours. I see friendships inside and outside the classroom.

"I see families getting to cheer on their child or sibling from the stands. I see a school that supports everyone. Everyone learns more than just their sport when participating in Unified Champion Schools."

Rittenhouse also reflected on how UCS has impacted her personally.

"It has allowed me to coach, which I never thought I would do, and to reach more students and build more relationships with students at all levels," she said. "Most importantly to me, it has allowed us to bring inclusion to more students across the district."

Speaking of inclusion, OPS will celebrate its district-wide Inclusion Week from Monday, March 24, through Friday, March 28.

"The high school's Unified team and the Links help plan and run this event," Rittenhouse said. "We're still working on the planning and details for this, but we are currently selling T-shirts to help fundraise and spread awareness for inclusion."

The youngest members of the Unified Champion Schools program at Dix Street Elementary School can be seen during one of their practices. (Photo provided)

OHS National Honor Society sponsors Share the Warmth event

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

The recent arctic blast sent temperatures in the area crashing to or below zero degrees.

Times like that serve as a reminder of how important it is to have the proper outdoor clothing during the harsh Michigan winters.

And members of the Otsego High School National Honor Society are tying to lend a helping hand when it comes to ensuring those in need can stay warm when its cold outside.

Throughout the month of January, the group is sponsoring a Share the Warmth campaign to collect winterwear for those in need in West Michigan.

Items being collected include new hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and socks, which will be donated to the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission.

Donation can be dropped off at Otsego High School.

Those wishing to help can also order off the Amazon wish list. The link for the Amazon Wish List is https://tinyurl.com/Sharethewarmth25.

OHS math teacher Katie Wideen serves as advisor for the Otsego High School NHS.

"The kids are super excited about this project and I am so amazed by the compassion for those who may not be as fortunate as they are," Wideen said.

Otsego High School National Honor Society
Share the Warmth
COLLECTING THROUGH THE MONTH OF JANUARY!!
All donations will be given to the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission
Drop off NEW hats, gloves, scarves, socks, etc. to the High School OR Purchase items off the Amazon Wishlist!
https://tinyurl.com/Sharethewarmth25

Waanders Concrete Co.
RESIDENTIAL and COMMERCIAL
3169 BABYLON RD. ALLEGAN
673-6352
STATE CERTIFIED MIX BATCH PLANT

H E
HARTMAN-ELLIS AGENCY
INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES
EXPERIENCE YOU CAN TRUST
155 Brady St, Allegan
www.HartmanEllis.com
ph. 269-673-4256
Fax 269-686-0710

INDEX

Classifieds B4
Puzzles / For The Record B5
Obituaries A7
Viewpoints A6
Community Events A4
Religion B6
Sports B1-B3

Laketown board unites behind Genetski for manager

The Laketown Township Board of Trustees voted unanimously on Wednes-day, January 15, 2025, to offer Bob Genetski the township manager posi-tion.

The 5-0 decision showed a united board agreeing to put behind past disa-greements.

The board voted on November 13 to offer the manager position to Genetski but could not come to an agreement to approve the contract. Four of five members of the board voted on January 8 to open negotiations with Brandon Mersman, city manager of Bronson, Michigan, while still keeping Gen-etski's contract open.

After that meeting, however, Mersman wrote in a text he was no longer in-terested in the Laketown position.

In a letter dated January 12, Mersman thanked the board for the opportunity to participate in the search that started with 44 candidates.

"After careful thought and consideration, I am writing to formally withdraw my candidacy for the Laketown Township Manager position. This decision did not come easily as I have deep roots in the community," he wrote. "I have appreciated the opportunity to engage with the board and learn about the vision and objectives of Laketown Township."

The board on Wednesday instructed Supervisor Steven Ringelberg and Trustee Mike Koeman to re-engage with Genetski.

The board could take up the issue again at a special meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 23, at the township hall, 4338 Beeline Road.

Board members who supported Mersman made it clear on Wednesday that they never had any ill will toward Genetski, who is the current Allegan County Clerk and Register of Deeds.

"We didn't put Bob down," said Trustee Mark Timmerman.

Koeman said he had nothing against Genetski. "I think it's time to give him a shot," Koeman said.

Clerk Jim Delaney said he supported Mersman, "but I do want to move on." Delaney has noted that he knows Genetski and has a great deal of respect for him.

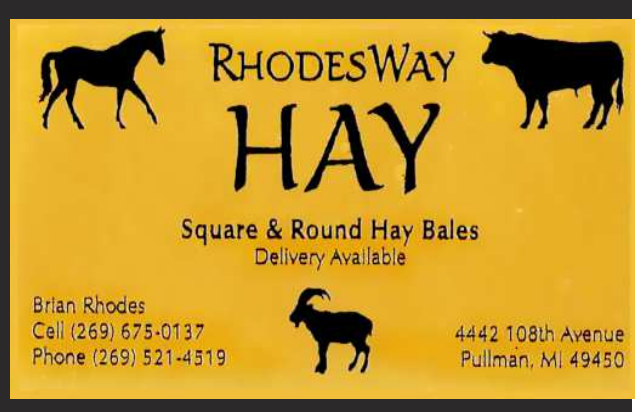
"I think Bob's a great guy," said Treasurer Jim Johnson.

Long-time Manager Al Meshkin retired on January 3, 2025. Ringelberg is serving as interim manager as well as supervisor.

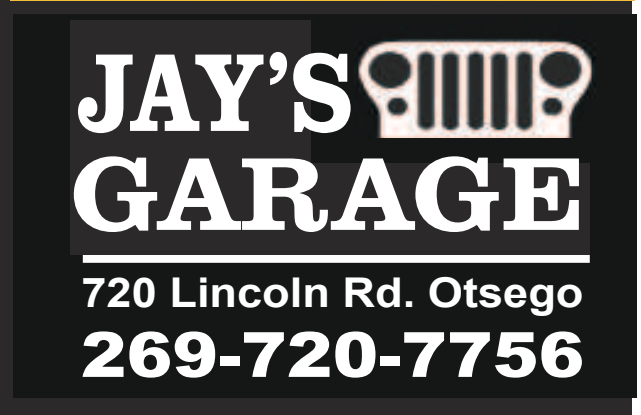
Follow Laketown Township on Facebook, Instagram and Threads.

Service Directory Guide

We Have The POWER To Make Things Better!
GENERAC
Best Installers • Best Warranty • Best Prices
Mr. Electric
a neighborly company
(269) 686-0014 • (269) 375-0520
www.mrelectric.com



Lone Wolf
Pest Control and Nuisance Wildlife
AFFORDABLE Pest Extermination and Nuisance Wildlife Removal
Local, Prompt, Licensed and Insured.
What's Buggin you? Call 269-400-3888

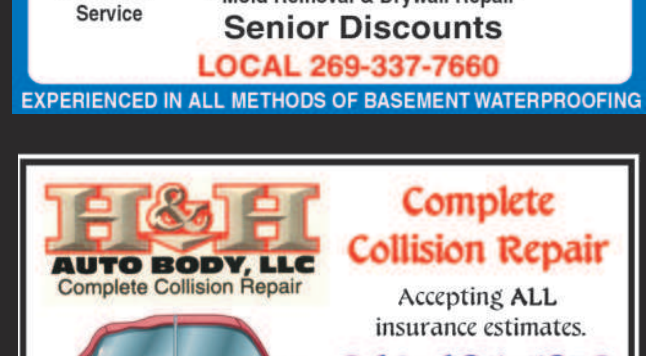


Pillars Auto Glass
Auto Glass Repair • Windshield Replacement
Insurance Claims • FREE ESTIMATES
269 488 6688 • www.pillarsglass.com

TIM ROGERS PLUMBING
SEWER AND DRAIN • PLUMBING • WATER HEATERS
WATER SERVICE & SEWER MAINS • HEATING AND COOLING
Now Licensed to Pump Septic Tanks
TIM ROGERS
PHONE: 269-673-3651
WEB: TIMROGERSPLUMBING.COM

ASA
Automotive Specialty Accessories
Ross Herrick
79 10th Street • Plainwell, Michigan 49080
Phone: 269.685.2189 • Cell: 269.806.6474
Fax: 269.685.2365 • Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:00-5:00
email: asatrucks@asatrucks.com • web: www.asatrucks.com

RJ Waterproofing & Contractors
Wet Basement?
• Internal/External Drain Tile Systems
• Water Seepage - Structural Wall & Floor Cracks
• Damp Wet Crawl Spaces
• Bowed & Cracked Walls
• Sump Pump/Emergency Backup System
• Mold Removal & Drywall Repair
24 Hour Emergency Service
Senior Discounts
LOCAL 269-337-7660
EXPERIENCED IN ALL METHODS OF BASEMENT WATERPROOFING



Embracing winter; enjoying what the outdoors has to offer

By Cindy Sasser

One thing I found impressive when I moved to Michigan is that people don't waste any time embracing the seasons as they arrive. They jump right in! Being from Phoenix AZ where you experience one eternal season, I procrastinated and missed a few opportunities my first couple of years here. I plan to be on my toes going forward.

Although many agree that winter time is best indoors where its warm and cozy, I wanted to find out how others take advantage of the various outdoor opportunities that winter has to offer.

Jennifer of Allegan said that her family enjoys renting snowshoes at the Outdoor Discovery Center and hiking their trails. What an excellent suggestion for hikers and nature enthusiasts! Jennifer is also part of the team at ODC in Holland.

When I dug in on their website, outdoordiscovery.org, I found the following reference:

> The ODC Nature Preserve is former farmland, so the property is relatively flat and easy to traverse. In the winter, ungroomed trails can still be explored with your own boots, skis, or snowshoes; or inquire in the Visitors Center to rent a pair of snowshoes from us.

You'll find an excellent calendar of winter events if you click on the "Programs" tab and then "Calendar." It includes many upcoming scheduled 'Snowshoe Hikes' for families.

I took the following passage from their website:

> The ODC Network is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that strives to advance outdoor education and conservation in West Michigan.
>
> Since 2000, ODC Network has served more than 1.3 million people through hands-on, outdoor learning experiences and conserved thousands of acres of native habitat through restoration and preservation projects.

Tucker from Allegan suggested a Winter Sports Park which features snow tubing and tobogganing. He said, "I've been to Echo Valley a few times and each time it was so much fun! I'm not a cold weather person but when you bundle up, what they have is a great time for you and the whole family or yourself and friends."

This brings back great childhood memories of my friends and I flying down hills on inner tubes in the snow. The goal was that the more times we went down the runs we made, the more solid and icy they'd become and the faster and freer you would fly. It was the best of winter times in Northern CA where I lived when I was little.

I'd love to experience that again! I checked around and while I didn't find any local parks that feature tubing lanes and tobogganing runs, I found several just outside of Allegan County. And at some, you can even go night-tubing!

A winter sport enjoyed by Elizabeth from Gobles is Snow Snaking. She explained that "Snow Snake" is a traditional game played by throwing a "snake stick" down a snow path. Well that piqued my interest! She directed me to the Gun Lake Tribe [Facebook] page. I wanted to share this section from their event page that paints a good picture of the sport:

> A Traditional Winter Game
>
> Snow Snake is a traditional Native American game played during the winter. Historically, it's been a game for men only – women weren't allowed to touch a man's Snow Snake and in some communities weren't even allowed to watch. It was considered a medicine game that lifted the spirits of the men during long winters, but our games today are mostly just for sport and to build camaraderie among both male and female players. Our games will be co-ed, all are welcome to compete.

To find out more and learn what a "Snow Snake" is, you can visit gunlaketribe-nsn.gov, scroll down to the calendar at the bottom of the page and click on the Snow Snake event shown on January 25th. They're hosting 'Snow Snake Games' on this day.

Elizabeth also suggested ice-skating adding that South Haven has a public ice-skating rink downtown. It's called the "South Haven Ice Rink," it's outdoors, and open from January 20th to March 2nd. You can find all the information you need at www.southhavenmi.com/ice-rink. I loved their heading paragraph:

> Welcome to the South Haven Ice Rink, a winter wonderland nestled at 546 Phoenix St. in South Haven, Michigan! The ice rink offers a delightful escape for individuals and families seeking frosty fun and invigorating outdoor activities.

Pam from Allegan mentioned "glow rides" at the Rise & Ride Ranch, a family-owned horse ranch in Allegan. They feature "Glow in the Dark Rides." The ride description reads:

> Indulge in a feast of the senses as you ride into the night, guided by a "living lantern" illuminating the woodland trails. This truly unique experience, complete with our handcrafted glow tack, is an absolute must for every horse enthusiast. A chance to connect with nocturnal nature, a gentle giant, and maybe even a little bit of magic!

You can visit their website at www.riseandrideranch.com. When I read their 'About' page sections it really moved me. The family is two sisters and their husbands and most of the horses are rescues. You can read the story behind each horse and then experience the life of love and happiness they have now ... "These rides are all about taking it easy—no trotting, cantering, or galloping. Our rescue horses love their chill jobs".

Jan from Holland says, "Sleigh rides at the Wild West Ranch in Fennville." Who wouldn't love a sleigh ride? Coincidently, Wild West Ranch is who accommodates the sleigh rides I mentioned in my article published in December about the Kingsley House Bed and Breakfast. You can find more information about Wild West Ranch at 4horserides.com.

Kathy from Plainwell said, "some go skiing at Bittersweet or Timber Ridge." Bittersweet Resort is in Otsego. An excerpt from their website, skibittersweet.com, reads:

> With a 350-foot vertical, 20 runs, 6 chairs lifts (2 of which are high speed lifts), 3 wonder carpets, and 2 rope tows, Bittersweet is the perfect place to spend the day and play in the snow!

And the last very interesting mention is "the snowmobile club." I believe she is referring to the Allegan County Snowmobile & ORV Association. You can visit their website at acsorva.com. They also have a Facebook page that displays their many public events. I'm hoping to speak to and write more in depth about them and the sport next week. But for now, as Pat says, "trails are groomed and lots of people are using them for getting out and having fun."

Holland Hospital
Serving You In Saugatuck
Primary Care for All Ages
Walk-in Lab & X-ray
Physical Therapy & Rehab
New Patients Call
(616) 394-3200
In your neighborhood and close to home, our team of primary care providers are focused on your health and wellness—delivering experienced and compassionate care for the entire family.
Holland Hospital
Medical Building – Saugatuck
6490 Blue Star Highway
Saugatuck MI 49453
New Patients Welcome

DomainDollars.com
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
TO CELEBRATE
OUR 25 YEARS AND 2025
1 in every 25 domain names
sold will be FULLY REFUNDED and FREE !!
** We're also giving $100 instant credits to all buyers! **
DOMAIN NAMES
ARE VERY PROFITABLE FOR MILLIONS
AND MAKE GREAT INVESTMENTS
HUNDREDS OF THEMED AND BRAND PREMIUM DOMAINS AWAIT YOU
MANY OF OUR DOMAINS
HAVE A.I. THEMES
BUY IT NOW PRICING OR MAKE YOUR OWN OFFERS
We accept lots of payment methods
including Bitcoin and other cryptos
Go to DomainDollars.com to see them all now

Community Events

Community Calendar - Week of Jan. 13, 2025

EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

Nonprofit Leaders: If you missed the Jan. 16th deadline to register for the Jan. 30th Leader Lunch & Learn, please contact MACC@alleganfoundation.org immediately.

Fri., Jan. 24, 2025, 2-4pm: Peanut Butter Drive Milk & Cookie Kickoff
ACCF Office in the old City Hall on Locust Allegan

CURRENT EVENTS

Wed., Jan. 22, 2025: Fun at the Library
Children 0-2 can read, sing and learn for fun.
10am: Play Café – Caregivers can enjoy a cup of coffee while the little ones have fun.
4pm: Live Birds of Prey with the Outdoor Discovery Center - The birds will be used to share their life history and information about Michigan habitats. Birds will be walked around or brought out after the presentation for viewing. Register at 269 673-4625.

Wed., Jan. 22, 2025, 2:30-4pm: Heart Health
Friends on Wednesday will meet in the Michigan Room at Ascension Borgess Allegan to talk with cardiologist De. Veera Kotaru. The session will begin with refreshments. All are invited.

Thurs., Jan. 23, 2025, 10:30am: Preschool Story time
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Enjoy stories and activities.

Thurs., Jan. 23, 2025, 6:30-8pm: Music Bingo Thursdays
Tantrick Brewing Co. 243 Hubbard St. Allegan
Bring a team or come alone and test your knowledge.

Fri., Jan. 25, 2025, 2-4pm: Peanut Butter Drive Milk & Cookies Kickoff
Allegan County Community Foundation Locust St. Allegan
Crop into the ACCF office and help get the 2025 Peanut Butter Drive off to a great start with a Cookies & Milk Break. Learn about the Allegan County Food Pantry Collaborative and how to donate to the peanut butter drive. The Drive ends Feb. 28th.

Fri., Jan. 24, 2025, 6-8pm: Intro to Calligraphy
Cottage Arts & Eats 245 Hubbard St. Allegan
Learn modern calligraphy from holding the pen to strokes, and tips on techniques. Register with Lori at cottageartsandeats@gmail.com.

Sat., Jan. 25, 2025, 11am: Jumpstart Your Genealogy
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Professional genealogist Megan Heyl is back to help us hunt down and organize our family histories.

Sat., Jan. 25, 2025, 11am-1pm: Mini Makers Workshop
Cottage Arts & Eats 245 Hubbard St. Allegan
5-9yr. old children can use their imagination to be creative when engaging in age-appropriate art and craft project. Register with Lori at cottageartsandeats@gmail.com.

Sat., Jan. 25, 2025, 2-5pm: Zentangle Clas with Watercolor
Cottage Arts & Eats 245 Hubbard St. Allegan
Class 1 of 3 to explore the calming art of Zentangle. The instructor will guide participants through blending colors, layering patterns, and creating intricate designs that are both unique and therapeutic. Register with Lori at cottageartsandeats@gmail.com.

Sun., Jan. 26, 2025, 2-4pm: Cabin Fever Reliever 2025 – 4 Mini Concerts
Griswold Auditorium 401 Hubbard St. Allegan
K'zoo Folklife/Allegan Chapter & the City of Allegan welcome all to enjoy Mathew Borr of Kalamazoo, Dave & Connie of Allegan, Mardi Peters of Kalamazoo, and John West & Char Wiltrakis of Allegan. Beer, wine and other refreshments will be available. Donations will be accepted at the door.

Mon., Jan. 27, 2025: Fun at the Library
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
1pm: Craft & Snack. Bring your own project and enjoy snacking and chatting.
6pm: BINGO. Bring the family and win prizes. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Mon., Jan. 27, 2025, 5:30-9pm: Tilt Winter Pinball League
Tilt 118 Brady St. Allegan
Every Monday – Kids play at 5:30pm and Adults play at 7pm.

Tues., Jan 28, 2025: Fun at the Library
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Lapsit Storytime. 0-2 year olds can enjoy a story and activities.
1pm: Friends of the Library Meeting. All are invited to drop in.

Tues., Jan 28, 2925, 6pm: Euchre Tournament
Tantrick Brewing Co. 243 Hubbard St. Allegan
Sign up as a team or individual on Tantrick's Facebook page, and play to win gift cards. Proceeds with go to a local non-profit.

Wed., Jan. 29, 2025, 2-4pm: Food Addicts Anonymous
Friends on Wednesday 200 Cutler St. Allegan
The FAA representatives will define food addiction, the symptoms, and the experiences of food addiction. All are invited.

Wed., Jan. 29, 2025: Fun at the Library
4pm: Teen Japanese Stab Art Book Binding. Students 5-12 grades can learn to do classic bookbinding with help from the Kalamazoo Book Arts. Register at 269 673-4625.

Thurs., Jan. 30, 2025: Fun at the Library
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Storytime. Ages 2-5 can drop in to enjoy stories and activities.
6pm: Decluttering & Downsizing. Learn about the Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning with Susie Marsh, a professional organizer and licensed social worker. Register at 269 673-4625.

Thurs.., Jan. 30, 2025, 12-2pm: Leader Lunch & Learn
The LYNX Golf Course M-89 Otsego,
Non-profit organization leaders and teams are invited to the 2nd Annual Leader Lunch & Learn sponsored by the MACC (Multi-Agency Collaborative Council). Along with lunch, there will be a speaker from the Michigan League for Public Policy. Tickets must be purchased by Jan. 15th for $15 or email MACCAalleganfoundation.org for assistance with costs.

Thurs., Jan 30, 2025, 3-6pm: Walk-In DIY Sassy Shirt Bar
The Sassy Olive 125 Locust St. Allegan
Choose a shirt, pick a design and press it on the spot.

Thurs., Jan. 30, 2025, 6:30-8pm: Music Bingo Thursdays
Tantrick Brewing Co. 243 Hubbard St. Allegan
Bring a team or come alone and test your knowledge.

Fri., Jan. 31, 2025, 10:30am: Sing Song Family Yoga & Literacy
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Join Deb Weiss-Gelmi as she combines yoga, music and literacy for kids with adult caregivers.

Fri., Jan. 31, 2025, 5-8pm: Silhouette Board Painting
Cottage Arts & Eats 245 Hubbard St. Allegan
Transform a plain plank wooden board into a stunning work of art. Register with Lori at cottageartsandeats@gmail.com.

Thurs., Feb. 6, 2025, 11:30am-1pm: Connect Chamber Women's Event
Railside Pavillion 2500 76th St. SW Byron Center
Connected Chamber Women members will network over lunch and hear Shariem Saterfield share "The Power of the Pearl", an insightful and humorous discussion about how to "keep your shine" when dealing with challenges. For more info, contact Taylor at director@alleganchamber.com

Fri., Feb. 7, 2025, 10am & 2pm: Tuck Everlasting
Wayland Union HS Theater Wayland
Come and see the High School Theater Department bring the beloved book by Natalie Babbitt to the stage thanks to the adaptation by Mark Frattaroli. Tickets online or at the door $6. Wufacticket8.ludus.com

Fri., Feb. 7, 2025, 7pm: Tuck Everlasting
Wayland Union HS Theater Wayland
Come and see the High School Theater Department bring the beloved book by Natalie Babbitt to the stage thanks to the adaptation by Mark Frattaroli. Tickets online or at the door $6. Wufacticket8.ludus.com

Sat., Feb. 8, 2025, 10am-5pm: Downtown Plainwell Chocolate Stroll
Downtown Plainwell Main Streets
The City of Plainwell organized this chocolate themed event includes an Indoor Market along with chocolate treats with purchases, restaurant specials, and specialty drinks for the Social District.

Sun., Feb. 9, 2025, 8am-Noon: Pancake Breakfast
Fennville Area Fire Department 599 W Fennville St. Fennville
Come for a wonderful breakfast that will be served by donation only.

Sun., Feb. 9, 2025, 2-4pm: Clarke, Meadow & Reed
Griswold Auditorium 401 Hubbard St. Allegan
A Cabin Fever Reliever 2025 Concert. The concert is free. Refreshment & alcoholic beverages will be available from the City of Allegan.

Fri., Feb. 14, 2024, 6:30-9:30pm: Death of a Ganster
Robinson Manor 701 Marshall St. Allegan
Be prepared to enter the world of a 1920s Mafia marriage murder mystery on Valentine's Day at Dunn Speakeasy. There will be twists and turns as diners attempt to solve the mystery. For more information & admission: https://therobinsonmanor.com/ and click Events.

Sun., Feb. 16, 2025, 2-4pm: Cabin Fever Reliever 2025 – Winter Concert Series
Griswold Auditorium 401 Hubbard St. Allegan
K'zoo Folklife/Allegan Chapter & the City of Allegan welcome all to enjoy Clarke, Meadow & Reed. Beer, wine and other refreshments will be available. Donations will be accepted at the door.

Wed., Feb. 26, 2025, 6-8pm: Wine & Canvas
LYNX Golf Course 700 M-89 Otsego
The Grill will be open during this event.

Sun., Mar. 2, 2025, 2-4pm: Cabin Fever Reliever 2025 - Great Lakes Brass
Griswold Auditorium 401 Hubbard St. Allegan
K'zoo Folklife/Allegan Chapter & the City of Allegan welcome all to enjoy Great Lakes Brass. Beer, wine and other refreshments will be available. Donations will be accepted at the door.

Mar. 8, 2025: Mardi Gras Fundraiser
Rotary (Jamie)

Sat., Mar. 8, 2025, 6-10pm: Comedy Night
LYNX Golf Course 900 M-89 Otsego
Tickets include dinner, show & dessert. Reservation required https://lynxgc.com/calendar.

Sun., Mar. 9, 2025, 8am-Noon: Pancake Breakfast
Fennville Area Fire Department 599 W Fennville St. Fennville
Come for a wonderful breakfast that will be served by donation only.

Wed., Mar. 19, 2025: 2025 Volunteer Fair
The Silo M40 S. Allegan
MACC will hold its second Volunteer Fair.
10am – organizations set up; 11-12 – lunch for organizations; 12-2pm -public is welcome to meet with participating organizations. Grant drawings and participant tote bags will be available.

Mar. 26, 2025, 11am: Allegan Co. CHNA Results
This online /virtual event is open to all and will share the results of the Allegan County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). It is

Sun., Apr. 13, 2025, 2-4pm: Cabin Fever Reliever 2025 - Ellis & M.E.
Griswold Auditorium 401 Hubbard St. Allegan
K'zoo Folklife/Allegan Chapter & the City of Allegan welcome all to enjoy Ellis & M.E. Beer, wine and other refreshments will be available. Donations will be accepted at the door.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

ASSISTANCE

Adventist Community Service Center
218 S. Farmer St. Otsego Tues. 10am-4pm; Thurs. 1-5pm
Clothes for the family and household goods are available, layettes for newborns, clothing, diapers, toys, etc. for babies to 6 mo. For emergency needs, call 269 694-4775 or Marlene 269 217-8293. This is supported by the 7th-Day Adventist Church and an ACCF TAG Grant.

Allegan County Community Action - Assistance for daily living
23 Water Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.communityactionallegan.org, (269) 673-5472
Food, weatherization, early childhood education.

Allegan Homeless Solutions - Helping eliminate barriers to housing.
108 Grant St., Plainwell MI 49080
www.alleganhomelesssolutions.org, Email: info@alleganhomelesssolutions.org

The Arc of Allegan County - Advocates for people with disabilities
219 Hubbard Street, Allegan 269 673-8841
Mission to advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community.

Baby Closet – Newborn Clothing and Supplies
Diaper Closet – monthly diaper program
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street Allegan
Call 269 673-2254 and leave a message.

Christian Neighbors - Food, Education, Emergency Financial Assistance
282 12th Street Plainwell MI 49080 (269) 685-4166
Monday: Drive-thru only - 10am-12pm and 4pm-6pm.
Tuesday: In person shopping/walk ins - 10am-12pm
Thursday: In person shopping/walk ins - 2pm-5pm
We have been providing services to the Plainwell, Otsego and Martin areas since 1983.

Community Clothes Closet – Free Clothing and More
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street, Allegan (269) 673-2254
Open Fridays, 10am – 1pm A wide selection of clothing for all ages is available.

People Helping People of Pullman
Assistance by appt. 269 236-6295

Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center - abuse prevention and healing
402 Trowbridge Street, Allegan, MI 49010 www.safeharborallegan.org, (269) 673-3791

CANADIAN
RIVER CRUISING
VACATIONS
RIVER CRUISE VACATIONS
Experience the beauty and history of the St. Lawrence & Ottawa Rivers on a classic Canadian riverboat. Request our free travel brochure.
1-800-267-7868 www.StLawrenceCruiseLines.com

THE REGENT THEATRE
211 Trowbridge St., Allegan
www.alleganregent.com
269-673-2737
SEARCHLIGHT
A COMPLETE UNKNOWN
Rated R
Friday, Jan. 24 - Thursday, Jan. 30
7pm Feature • $5 – Sat. & Sun. 2pm Matinee • $4
DAILY SPECIALS
Mondays - 2-for-1 Admission • Tuesdays- 25 cent Popcorn
FLASHBACK FRIDAY!
Eraserhead (1977) • Jan. 31 @ 9:30pm • $5

Generational businesses thrive in Allegan

By Gari Voss

Allegan, Michigan lies in Southwest Michigan and has been known for being the county seat of Allegan County since 1835. The name was promoted by Henry Schoolcraft who had studied the native Americans in the area. Though the area was mapped 1831, Allegan County was not officially organized until 1835. At that time, Allegan was denoted county seat because of its source for water power and its accessibility to Lake Michigan thanks to the Kalamazoo River that could handle steamboat traffic.

Over the years, Allegan has been supported by numerous companies and businesses catering to the needs of citizens since pioneer days. The lumber businesses and even the many family farms have faded into history, but the area continues to be supported by a host of "Anchor" businesses.

As a current reader inquired, "Can an article showcase companies that have thrived in Allegan through multiple generations. Companies like Waanders, Wray's, Rapa, Armintrout, and Cooks are a few that come to mind. These companies have supported the communities they are in for many years and deserve some recognition."

Over the weeks, the companies and businesses suggested will be examined, but a single article would not do them justice. An examination of Wray's Septic was done when they were named Best in the County. Rapa Electric has served businesses and individuals for well over 50 years. Armintrout Nursery, Inc. began back in the 1930s. And the list goes on.

What makes a business thrive through the generations? This question has been explored by schools of business around the world. Some studies name 6 qualities, others name eight or ten or twelve, but the number does not matter as much as the fact that they endure through the generations and continue to serve their clientele.

One fact is agreed upon… family businesses are the cornerstone of most national economies. Suisse Research stated, "They can create jobs, spur innovation, and drive superior returns. Their success depends upon good governance, identifying and developing both family and non-family talent, pursuing disciplined succession, and preserving family gravity."

"Family gravity" is comprised of a value system that unites members around a common framework. Add a vision system for the future which is defined and communicated over time. Then there is the involvement of family members who clarify the vision by sharing information. This builds cohesion and interaction with mutual understanding, respect and support. The communication forms the family governance that is established and retains talent. When communication is strong, the development of leadership principles and clearly defined roles for operation follow.

Consequently, an important aspect of family business falls under the category "Communication". Walden University explained this phenomenon as families having "their own way of communication". There are a variety of conventions, but they all rely on open, regular communication that express not only success but problems so they can be confronted immediately. If the problem is extensive, even a family business may call upon an outside consultant or a colleague.

There is an evolution in all successful businesses. In order to achieve longevity, success comes with identifying changes in the wants of the customers, new materials that are available, and continual "education" in the newest technology or product. A family must listen and watch while trusting the "younger" generation that may bring the most current trends.

While communication is absolutely necessary to keep a business solvent, there must be boundaries set that separate business and family time. Family issues cannot be allowed to encroach on business time, and business issues cannot be allowed to interrupt quality family time.

As with other successful businesses, good governance must be practiced. That is the involvement of leaders inside and outside of the "family". Examining thriving businesses, studies found that a professional, advisory, or supervisory board was comprised of family and non-family members. Some "boards" thrive with family members who stay immersed in their associations and so-licit the ideas of employees. However it is structured, the "board" must continually be immersed in the "industry" and its changes over time.

Most family businesses require employees who are non-family members. When filling positions, the family leadership team seeks staff/workers who have skills that family members do not have or have skills to carry out assignments with the same passion and precision as a family member. That is where research discovered the treatment of employees like "family members" comes into play. Employee skills and suggestions are valued.

Though parents and/or grandparents may want the youngsters to walk in their shoes, experience has shown that family members should not be pushed or guilted into joining the business. The decision must be completely up to the family members so the passion for the business moves for-ward with the employees and leadership.

Finally, a family business begins with an idea and passion, but every industry changes over time. This change occurs in the "product or service" along with the talents and skills of the employees. All family members and employees must be invested in the company to ensure excellent leadership in the future. Knowledge and development of the product and leadership over time must receive constant attention.

As an investigation of Allegan companies progresses, the progression of a business from its roots to 2025 will open new insights into how and why these companies are the backbone of the Allegan area. Note: Suggestions for family businesses and/or companies that have served the area for 50-60 years are welcome.

Kruegar, efficient minded clerk, passes

By John Raffel
Correspondent

ALLEGAN — Former county commission chairman James Storey reported that one of the innovators in delivering service to county residents, retired county clerk and register of deeds, Daniel Kruegar passed away in late December.

At the conclusion of Kruegar's funeral service, the local funeral director stepped to the microphone to laud Kruegar for modernizing the issuance of death certificates which, in turn, improved the service offered by his business.

Kruegar was a pioneering advocate for other improvements such as converting court records and proceedings to digital, rather than paper, functions.

He efficiently operated his office from four locations throughout the county, including the circuit court records function in Grand Haven, the clerk-register of deeds at Ottawa's Fillmore complex in West Olive, and two branch offices in Holland and Hudsonville.

Kruegar was Ottawa's County clerk for 38 years.

Home Equity
Line of Credit
Consolidations,
Renovations,
Vacations,
and so much more!
allegan
credit union
a division of ignite credit union
growing with you.
allegancu.com 269.673.5465
Allegan Credit Union, a division of Ignite Credit Union, is an Equal Opportunity Lender. Federally insured by the NCUA. | NMLS ID: 646287

Book of
Love
Spend $25 in gift cards, mugs, and merchandise, get a Book of Love coupon book worth over $25 in deals!
Biggby Coffee
*Offer valid 11/29/24 - 12/31/24 at participating locations.

Trump made many promises, not let's see if he can fulfill them

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
■ PUBLISHER ■

Welcome to the greatest political comeback ever recorded. America has gotten the president they wanted, and Trump has chosen the cabinet he wanted, and now it's time to get down to business and make sure the promise that were made during the campaign are fulfilled.

Here's a partial list of what needs to be done:

First and foremost, because it affects ordinary citizens more than anything else, is the high cost of goods available for purchase. Yes, inflation has come down, but the cost of groceries and gas has not.

I just went to the grocery store and spent $200. I came home and realized the same groceries could have been purchased four years ago for $150 or less. AAA says the price of gas is 15 to 20 cents higher than last year, and of course four years ago instead of $3.15 a gallon we were paying slightly over $2 a gallon.

Interest rates remain high because the Fed is still concerned, we haven't curbed spending. Just last week mortgage rates went up above $7 percent, not down like most people expected.

Of course, all those is tied to campaign promise number two- as Trump would say, "drill baby, drill." Environmentalists and climate change advocates have had their way in the Biden administration, stopping the Keystone Pipeline and limiting offshore drilling. America just four years ago was supplying energy to nations all over the world, now we are purchasing from despot regime likes Venezuela.

The change was made in favor of windmills and huge solar farms. Green energy was considered favorable to oil and gas and nuclear. The latter is the most efficient clean energy we can provide, and I would hope the new administration would subsidize the building of new nuclear plants.

This said, providing our own energy (the reserves beneath us are the most in the world) will drive down prices, inflation and interest rates. It's a no-brainer to many middle-class Americans, but to the elites who prefer windmills, solar and electric cars- well, they could care less about the cost of goods or gas.

Trump's victory can also be attributed to the porous border. Biden and his henchman Mayorkas allowed millions of illegals to pour into our country, putting tremendous strains on public schools, law enforcement and city services. Trump has vowed to round up many of these illegals and return them to their native countries. Additionally, they plan to shut down the border, resume building the wall and the "stay in Mexico" policy. If you believe his border czar Tom Holman, that has already begun. We shall see how effective they are.

Trump has also said he will end the war in Ukraine. I've advocated for this for a long time. We have spent far too much money propping up Ukraine to what war hawks say is an imperialistic Russia hellbent on conquering Europe. I don't see it that way. I would rather spend the billions to help Americans. Let Ukraine, Russia and Europe settle their differences. Trump has signaled an end to funding the war. I hope he means it.

Trump has made many other campaign promises as well like getting the federal budget under control. Again, that affects you and I and must be accomplished.

As with every president, I wish them well. With Trump "well" is even more important. He has survived two assassination attempts, and numerous criminal and civil lawsuits. No doubt, he is a survivor. I hope he is the "cat with nine lives," can survive any more assassination attempts, and is able to work to fulfill his campaign promises.

Life as Performance Art

G CORWIN STOPPEL

Only the Olds will remember the chart above the blackboard in every fourth grade classroom across the nation. It was the alphabet, both capitals and lower-case letters, in cursive. It was bad enough having to learn how to print; now that we were big kids, we had to learn to write. Our efforts were meant to look just like the letters on the chart, but most of us could never manage it. Sometimes, to spur us on to plu-perfect penmanship, an Old would give us a Woolworth's pen and pencil set for our birthday or some other milestone event.

Keep those hideous thoughts of learning how to write cursive in mind. We'll get back to it in no time, and then you can move on to something else.

About the time I was learning cursive, there was a brief period when I was convinced I really wanted to become an archeologist like Howard Carter. He was the fellow who discovered King Tut's tomb after years of digging through parts of the Valley of the Kings in Egypt. It looked exciting, challenging, and fun. So did an article in the Reader's Digest about some place in eastern Canada where a vast buried treasure was waiting to be found. Apparently, I wasn't the only one interested, because the Lagina Brothers got there first.

That same excitement returned twenty years ago when we ran into the niece of Hiram Bingham, the fellow who discovered Machu Pichu in Peru, and parlayed that into a tenured position at Yale and then election to the US Senate. A good friend loaned us a copy of a National Geographic magazine from 1911 where he wrote about his adventures.

There are still television programs about archeologists and the work they do in Egypt and around the world. What is shown on television is far from the reality of the work. A lot of it is tedious, boring, and often done in uncomfortable and miserable places renowned for scorpions, deadly snakes, and malaria-bearing mosquitoes.

My sister's frequent news-laden e-mails and telephone calls have made the reality and miserable side of archeology very clear. A half-century ago my hometown historical society bought the old Stoppel homestead. It came with a stone barn, a stone house in a poor state of repair, and some manmade caves used for storing crops, plus farm fields. Attached to the house was a stone smoke house, and perhaps one of the few stone outhouses in the Upper Midwest. Suffice it to note that no one was going to tip that one over.

When the organization finally started doing some restoration work, they began with the outhouse. With small shovels, trowels, whisk brooms and dust pans they began working their way to the bedrock, quite a few feet down.

It seems that outhouses are a known repository of all sorts of things that might help historians understand the people who lived there. The project's archeologist and his interns hoped to make discoveries, research them, and add them to a museum display. They would have the goods to help interpret life on the farm for a century and a quarter, starting in the 1850s.

Archeology might seem like fascinating, even glamorous work. In very practical terms, however, the crew was slowly digging through one hundred twenty-five years of, to be polite, "fertilizer." By then, it was mostly dry and certainly well composted, but still… The crew members went to school, perhaps graduate school, and will be paying off their student loans from low-paying jobs for decades to come. All of that to dig through, well, fertilizer.

Apparently, they did have some exciting moments such as the day they found several old glass beer bottles from the Schuster Brewery in town. Another day their work rewarded them with a few pieces of broken stoneware from the Red Wing pottery factory in Red Wing. A belt buckle, a few buttons, and a few coins more or less rounded out their excitement. Oh, and some clay pipe bits and pieces. But no gold, silver, or other valuable commodities.

Their finds were hardly the makings for so much as the ubiquitous fifth-grade first-day-back-to-school "theme" on 'How I Spent my Summer.' In cursive, of course.

Only the rarest of archeologists are able to go off to faraway places with strange sounding names to discover museum quality stuff that might help rewrite history. Most university students with a degree in archeology scramble to get a job with a firm of civil engineers or construction crew to do site work before construction begins.

That may sound a bit odd, but before erecting a new building or building a bridge or much of anything else, care has to be taken to make sure that important icons of the past are not lost forever. That is what happened with Richard III of England. After he was killed in battle in 1485, his body was unceremoniously dumped into an unmarked grave, and a couple of centuries later, paved over to make a parking lot. A couple of years they found him again, and with great ceremony, buried in him a more appropriate spot.

Today, careful archeological work is now required to make sure that no sacred artifacts, especially human remains, of the indigenous people are disturbed or mistreated. Anything found in their digs adds one more piece of information about those who came before us, and that is important for all of us. So is treating the relic with respect.

As "Indiana Jones" pointed out to his students, most archeological work happens in the libraries and research centers, not out in the field. That is where you and I come in, especially if you are one of the Olds who had to learn cursive writing back in school and can still read it. Your local historical society, museum, maybe the library needs you. Ox-Bow School of the Arts needs you to go through boxes of documents, memoirs, and diaries dating back to 1910. Most of it is handwritten.

Or, go big! Uncle Sam's National Archives needs you. Strewn throughout all of their libraries and warehouses are long lines of shelves laden with countless boxes of documents that they collected over the centuries. Some of it is sitting in the same place where they put it years ago. Most of the papers are handwritten in cursive. It is a potential treasure trove of information about our common past. If you can read cursive, he National Archives needs you. The good news is that much of this work can be done online.

To get started, go to the National Archives website at www.archives.gov. From there, find the Citizen Archivist Dashboard and start your adventure by exploring it until you arrive at the National Archives Catalogue After that, select an area of interest.

For example, would you like to work your way through some of the Revolutionary War Pension File Transcripts? That might seem about as exciting is slowly digging through my great-grandfather's stone outhouse, until you realize that the soldiers who earned those pensions used their money to build their businesses, move west into the Ohio Valley to buy land to start their farms. In short, you are working on the history of the Westward Movement of our country.

That is just one of many areas where you could put your cursive skills to good use. And while you are at it, have a smug smile that we Olds are doing something most of the youngsters cannot do. Not only can we read and write in cursive, we know how to use a rotary phone or change television channels without relying on a remote!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In response to reader's letter

Dear Editor:

I would like to respond to the editorial by Mr. William A. Geresy. His facts are untrue. It is another example of misinformation, and an attempt to rewrite history.

Total misinformation that Speaker Newt Gingrich and the Republican party had anything to do with the economic success in the 90's. The "Contract with America" was a failure and had nothing to do with the surplus that was created.

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 was responsible for the robust economy of the 90's. It contained increased taxes in the highest 1.2% of wage earners. It reduced taxes on the middle class, and increased the earned income tax credit for lower income citizens. These policies proved to be highly successful.

The vote on the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1993: 219-213 in the House with zero votes coming from Republicans; Senate vote was 50-49 with zero Republicans voting for the bill which also included a no vote from Speaker of the House Gingrich. It was opposed because the rich were given a tax increase, similar to today's attitude of the Republican party.

Why should Republicans get credit that had 100% opposition. Mr. Gersey believes falsely that Speaker Gingrich somehow deserves credit. His time as Speaker had very few positives. The surplus did not last long as the next administration went back to deficit spending. Vice-President Cheney and President George W. Bush felt that deficit spending was good for the economy.

After the infrastructure bill was passed many Republicans who voted against the bill went to their citizens to claim victory for new roads and bridges in their districts. How demeaning to voters.

It is time for Republicans to stop misinformation and trying to rewrite history. The attack on government on January 6th was not a friendly visit to the capitol that many Republicans are now professing. What a sickening development. Do not believe what a politician says publicly. It just may be the exact opposite of what they are saying in front of a camera. Sad, but that is presently the reality in politics.

Mark Austin

Do the Local Thing

Shopping in town helps local shops, cafes and restaurants, and the business owners who make them unique! When you shop local the whole community benefits.

ShopLocal

Witchcraft for Wayward Girls

The Bookworm Sez

"Witchcraft for Wayward Girls"

by Grady Hendrix

c.2025, Berkley
$30.00 • 496 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

So when are you due?

Do you want to know *now*, long before then, or will you wait to see if your baby's a boy or a girl? Another question: will you buy pink clothes, blue ones or, as in the new book **"Witchcraft for Wayward Girls" by Grady Hendrix,** will you wait to know witch?

She tried to keep her pregnancy under wraps, literally.

It was the spring of 1970 and Neva had been wearing elastic girdles around her belly for weeks but hiding her bulge was now impossible; soon, everybody'd know she was a "loose girl" who destroyed her virtue by sleeping with a boy out of wedlock. That wouldn't do for her parents, who didn't want everyone to see the family's shame, so Neva's father took her to a Home for Unwed Mothers in Florida and he left without saying goodbye.

Then Miss Wellwood, owner of the Home, stripped Neva of her identity.

On that day, Neva became "Fern."

Though she was devastated – she just wanted everything normal again – Fern adjusted and even made friends. There was beautiful Rose, who planned on keeping her baby despite her parents' wishes and Miss Wellwood's demands; Zinnia, the only "colored" girl at the Home, who was Fern's voice of reason; and little Holly, barely fourteen years old, who refused to talk.

But one day, Holly *did* talk, and she told her roommates that she was molested by her preacher since she was eight years old. The preacher would adopt her baby, Holly would be sent home, and probably abused again.

Outraged, Fern, Zinnia, and Rose began to conjure a plan. The Home's bookmobile librarian had just given Fern a book of witchcraft, and Fern devoured everything she read. There was help for Holly there, and revenge for Rose, Fern was sure.

And so, on a summer evening, the girls sneaked away to the woods, to a clearing by the trees. It was warm and moonlit, a fine night for casting a curse…

Scary?

Eh, not terribly so, but "Witchcraft for Wayward Girls" is definitely edgy, in a V. C. Andrews sort of way, like those kinds of adolescent-girl, witchy-occult paperback books from the '70s. Indeed, author Grady Hendrix sets this story directly in that time-frame, which gives it just the right vibe. It has its moments of hair-raising and it can lag a little here and there, but like its forebears from fifty years ago, it's mostly tame and mostly safe.

It's also quite readable, with a cast of young women on the cusp of adulthood, paying for something that, historically, wouldn't be shameful soon because feminism and new attitudes were on their way. Readers old enough to remember this time and this enduringly popular novel genre will be flush with nostalgia in this book.

Readers too young to remember: welcome to the fold.

Be aware of the content, and "Witchcraft for Wayward Girls" can be enjoyed by any horror-occult fan ages 16 and up. If you've been waiting for a book like this, you're overdue.

All the books the Bookworm reviews here are available at the sponsor of this column:

Allegan District Library

The Allegan COUNTY NEWS

© The Allegan County News, 2025

P.O. Box 189, 241 Hubbard St.
Allegan, MI 49010-0189 (269) 673-5534
e-mail: Wilcoxnewspapers@gmail.com Web site: www.wilcoxnewspapers.com

Published weekly by The Allegan County News. R. Michael Wilcox publisher. Subscriptions: $40 per year in county; $55 per year in Michigan; $55 out of state; Foreign rates upon request. Periodicals postage paid at Allegan, MI 49010. Postal Publication No. 013-700. Postmaster: Send address corrections to The Allegan County News, P.O. Box 189, Allegan, MI 49010-0189.

the UE Otsego & Plainwell UNION ENTERPRISE

© The Union Enterprise, 2025

P.O. Box 189, 241 Hubbard St., Allegan, MI 49010-0189
(269) 673-5534
e-mail: Wilcoxnewspapers@gmail.com Web site: www.wilcoxnewspapers.com

Published weekly by The Union Enterprise. R. Michael Wilcox publisher. Subscriptions: $40 per year in Allegan County. $55 in Michigan; $55 out of state. Periodicals postage paid at Allegan, MI 49010 and at additional mailing office Postal Publication No. 413600. Postmaster: Send address corrections to Union Enterprise, P.O. Box 189, 241 Hubbard St., Allegan MI 49010

R. Michael Wilcox, Publisher
Jason Wesseldyk, High School Sports Editor
Julie Hotchkiss, Accounts Receivable
Matt Gliwa, Graphic Artist
Jordan Wilcox, IT Support
Lynn Jensen - Sales

MPA MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

Member

ADVERTISING DEADLINES
4 P.M. Monday

The Allegan County News and Union Enterprise will in no case be responsible for typographical or other errors, but will reprint that part of an advertisement in which a typographical error occurs. The publisher reserves the right to reject or cancel any material at any time. The right is reserved to reject, omit or edit any material offered for publication.

Obituaries

JoAnne Dolhay, 78

JoAnne Dolhay of Kalamazoo, died on Monday, January 13, 2025 in her home. Born November 5th, 1946 in Allegan, Michigan, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Dorothy Herpst. JoAnne's life was defined by her determination, quick wit, fierce sense of self, kindness, and unwavering love for her family. The fourth of seven children, JoAnne, graduated from Allegan High School. After high school, she attended cosmetology school and began a career as a beautician that spanned over fifty years and included owning her own salon. Her salon had a loyal customer base, due in large part to the environment JoAnne created. She decorated elaborately for each holiday, always had a full candy bowl, and treated all her customers as friends. Also an avid artist, JoAnne loved to sew, knit, paint, and bake. She loved sequins and chocolate, often suggesting a recipe or pattern that called for them would benefit from the addition of more. Anything she did, she did well and with pizazz. For family, this translated into the most elaborate three-tiered birthday cakes, a testament to her talent, giving spirit, and her love for her nieces and nephews. Something true for both family and friends alike, is that you always left JoAnne's home with more than what you came with. JoAnne is survived by her sisters, Gertrude (Don) Chappell of Allegan, Dorothy (Dan) Vandervere of Bangor, and Susan (Tim) Mehlberg of Parma, OH; brothers, Roger (June) of Onaway and Joseph (Gail) of LaGrange, IN; twelve nieces and nephews; and a host of great-nieces and great-nephews. Along with her parents, she was preceded in death by her loving husband, Robert, her brother, Ron, and her nephew, Jason. JoAnne's wish was to be cremated with her ashes buried alongside her late husband. A celebration of her life will be announced at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of one's choice, c/o the funeral home. Friends may leave a condolence message for the family at www.joldersma-klein.com.

Peggy Lynn Shamblin, 70

Peggy Lynn Shamblin, 70, passed away January 16, 2025, after an extended period of illness. She was born November 24, 1954, to Paul & Lillian (Scott) Knapp of Pullman, Michigan. She was the youngest child, having two older siblings, Patrick Knapp and Brenda (Knapp) Laraway.

She graduated from Bloomingdale High School in 1973 and then worked for L. Perrigo Company for over 20 years. She is fondly remembered by many friends and family for her short height and her sweet, but feisty spirit. In her younger days, she loved dancing to her favorite tunes at weddings, social gatherings, or even while cleaning the house on a Saturday afternoon. In 2016, she reconnected with her special friend Lyle Linsemier, who became the love of her life. She spent her remaining years in quiet happiness with him.

Peggy was blessed with two daughters, Lisa Hunt and Brandy (Davis) Yntema; as well as three grandchildren, Kaun, Lily, and Neil. She is survived by her children and grandchildren; multiple nephews and their families; her beloved,

Peggy Lynn Shamblin

Lyle Linsemier, and many long-time friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents and siblings.

Services will be conducted at 12:00 PM on Friday, January 24, 2025, at the Terwilliger Funeral Home, in Kaleva. Visitation will take place from 11:00 AM until the time of service at the funeral home. Interment will take place at Brethren Cemetery with a luncheon to follow.

The Terwilliger Funeral Home, in Kaleva, is in charge of arrangements.

www.terwilligerfuneralhome.com

Robert Blake (Bob) Perrigo, 86

Robert Blake (Bob) Perrigo age 86, passed away peacefully with family at his side in Midland, MI on January 18, 2025.

Bob was born and raised in Allegan, Michigan, where he attended high school before pursuing higher education at Michigan State University and Western Michigan University, earning a degree in Business. His passion for both cars and business led him to begin his career at Ford Motor Company. In 1974, he took a leap of faith and purchased his first car dealership, relocating his family to Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. Always an entrepreneur at heart, Bob expanded his ventures in 1980 by partnering in Apollo Oil & Gas Exploration Company. Beyond his professional accomplishments, Bob was known for his sharp wit, engaging conversations, and an innate ability to make those around him feel valued. His warmth and kindness were evident from the moment you met him, making him someone people naturally gravitated toward. Bob was deeply loved and widely respected by all who had the privilege of knowing him. His legacy of integrity, generosity, and laughter will be cherished forever.

Bob was a beloved son, brother, father, husband and grandfather. He is survived by his loving wife of 66

Robert Blake Perrigo

years, Judith Perrigo; his daughters, Kim (Tim) Murray and Amy (Kevin) Roeder, and 5 grandchildren: Tyler (Ashley) Murray, Katelyn Murray England, Sydney (Marcus) Roeder Chenevix-Trench, Benjamin Roeder and Sophie Roeder. Bob also has 3 great grandchildren: Jaxon, Eloise and Miles Murray.

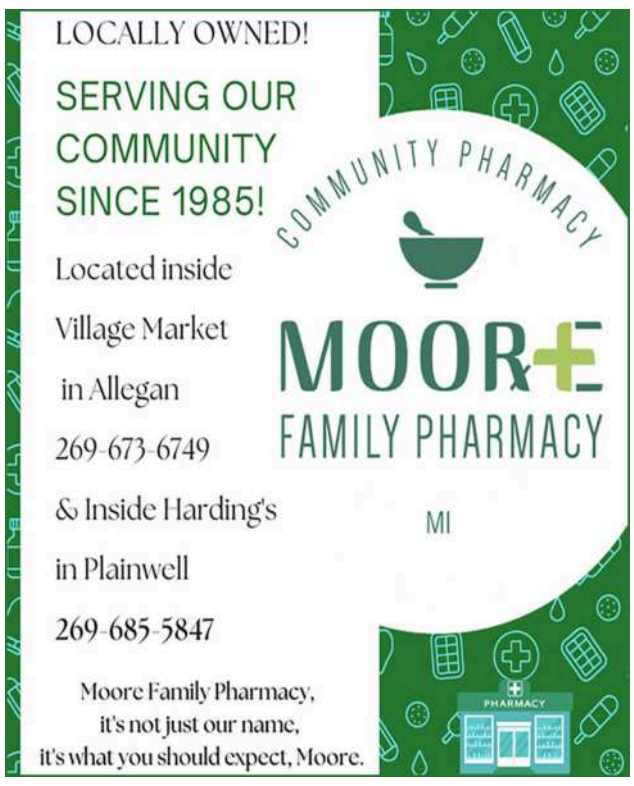
Bob was preceded in death by his father, Paul Buchanan Perrigo; his mother, Carolyn Louise Perrigo; his brother, Richard Perrigo; and his daughter, Stefanie Perrigo Hill.

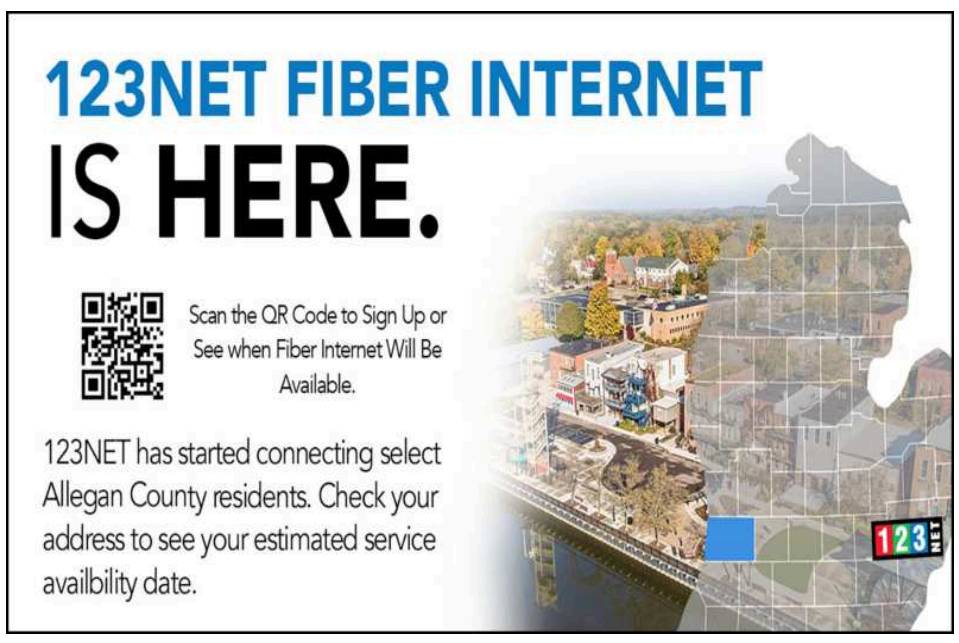
The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the compassionate team at Deer Run Rehabilitation for their exceptional care, kindness and unwavering dedication. Your commitment to providing comfort, dignity and respect during this time will always be deeply appreciated.

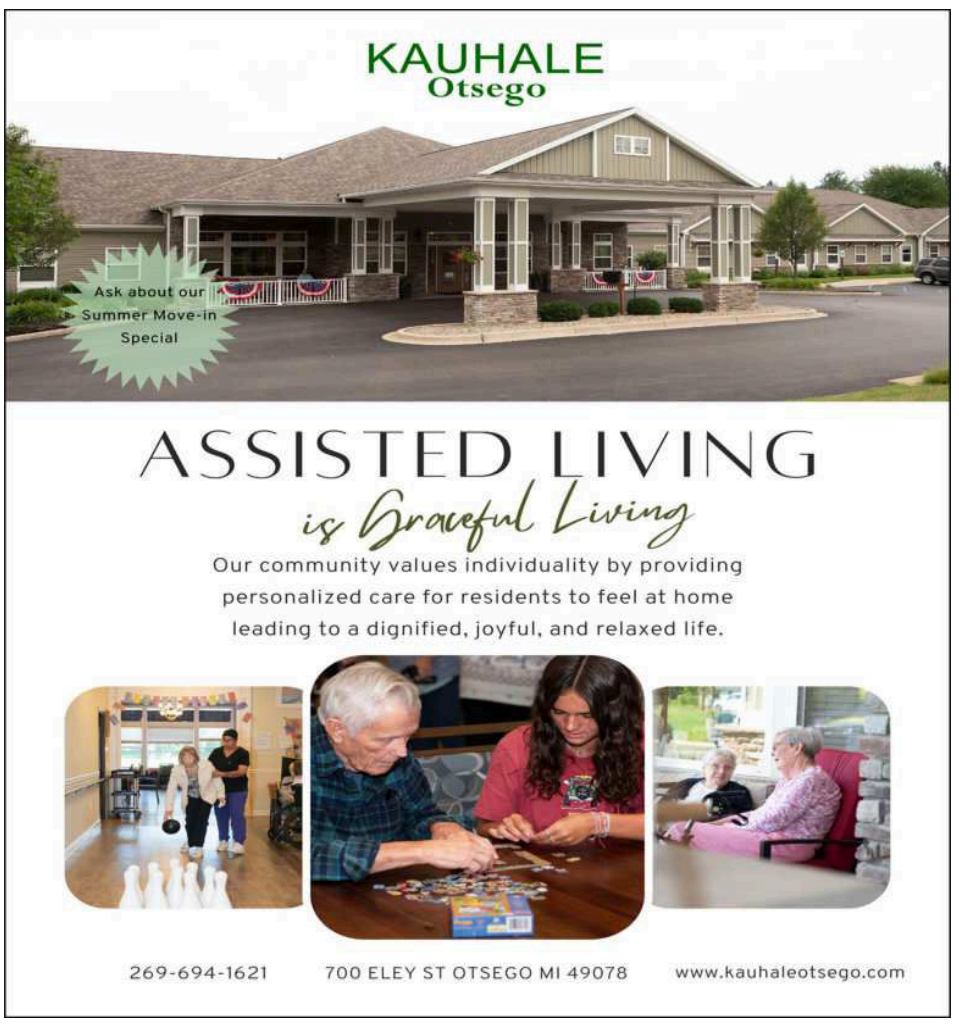
A celebration of life on Bob's birthday will take place at 11 am on April 24, 2025 at Smith-Miner Funeral Home (2700 W. Wackerly St. in Midland, MI) with Pastor Donald Killey officiating. Friends may visit with the family from 10 am until time of service. He will be laid to rest at Oakwood Memorial Mausoleum in Saginaw.

In lieu of flowers, those planning an expression of sympathy are asked to consider St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Deer Run Rehabilitation in Midland, Michigan, in honor of Robert Perrigo.

Smith-Miner Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Perrigo family: To share a special memory, please visit www.smithminer.com.




123NET FIBER INTERNET
IS HERE.
Scan the QR Code to Sign Up or See when Fiber Internet Will Be Available.
123NET has started connecting select Allegan County residents. Check your address to see your estimated service availbility date.
123 NET


KAUHALE
Otsego
Ask about our Summer Move-in Special
ASSISTED LIVING
is Graceful Living
Our community values individuality by providing personalized care for residents to feel at home leading to a dignified, joyful, and relaxed life.
269-694-1621
700 ELEY ST OTSEGO MI 49078
www.kauhaleotsego.com

Driver's License Restoration | Drunk Driving & Criminal Defense
It's a Process... We Can Help! | "Friends... Don't Let Friends Plead Guilty!"
Law Office of
FREDERICK J. TAYLOR
269-388-6060 • 1-800-250-FRED

Capturing memories, today and forever.
Scan the code or call one of the phone numbers below to learn more about pre-planning.
PLAINWELL (269) 685-5881
VICKSBURG (269) 649-1697
PORTAGE (269) 344-5600
SCHOOLCRAFT (269) 679-5622
MARCELLUS (269) 646-2144
www.AMSFuneralHomes.com
Avink McCowen Secord
Funeral Homes and Cremation Society

Plainwell Robotics Club hosts elementary competition

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

PLAINWELL—The Plainwell Robotics Club hosted the Second Annual VEX IQ Tournament on Saturday, Jan. 18, with 19 elementary school teams from across Michigan among the participants.

The top four award winning teams from the event—hailing from Grandville, Hamtramck and Charlotte—earned invitations to the State Championship, which is slated to take place in Monroe in March.

Team Gear Slayerz from Cooper Elementary was the top performer of the six Plainwell entrants in the tournament. Consisting of team members Alex Gruizenga, Carter Palme, Noah Johnson and Aiden DeYoung, Gear Slaverz placed fifth after the qualifying rounds and earned second place for the Teamwork Award.

The team was also presented with the Innovate Award, which recognizes an effective and well-documented design process for a novel aspect of the team's robot design or gameplay strategy. Bryan Gruizenga and Justin Palme serve as coaches for Gear Slaverz.

Here's a look at the other five Plainwell teams that participated in the tournament:

* The Gooder Gadgets (Harper Bates, Zander Williams and Kinzlee Williams) from Cooper Elementary placed 11th after the qualifying matches, and finished in a six-way tie for third place in the finals.

The team was presented with the Create Award, which recognizes a creative engineering design solution to one or more of the challenges of the competition. Coaches are Kate Bates and Matt Bates.

* Team Girls With Gears (Bridgett Crampton, Riley Czarnecki, Lula Reiber and Eleanor Stone) from Starr Elementary placed 12th after the qualifying matches and were included in the six-way tie for 3rd place in the finals.

The team was presented with the Energy Award, which recognizes outstanding enthusiasm and excitement at the event. Sarah Orr and Nicole Moore serve as coaches.

* The Hollow Knights (Ezekiel Blair, Penelope Carruthers-Makarewich, Madilyn Fisher and Charles Gerds) from Gilkey Elementary placed 14th after the qualifying round.

The team is coached by Angalena Carruthers-Makarewich and Jamie Raulston.

* The Banana Penguins (Bradley Bunker, Emmett Cabello and Brock Hansen) from Starr Elementary placed 15th after the qualifying matches and were also involved in the third-place tie in the finals.

Jeff Cabello and Christie Hansen are the team's coaches.

* Team Koala Bots (Adelyn Bilski, Aiden Cornelius, Grayson Davies, and Pearl Morse) from Cooper Elementary placed 18th after the qualifying round. The team also shared in the third-place finish in the finals.

John Morse, Craig Davies and Adam Cornelius are the Koala Bots coaches.

Meanwhile, two high school teams from the Plainwell Robotics Club competed in a 32-team event in Hudsonville.

Team Ring Kong—consisting of Lucas Stoll, Blaine Rensi, Luca Cassada and Parker Montange—placed 26th after the qualifiers. The team was invited to join the 13th place alliance, and lost in the round of 16.

The team, coached by Sarah Orr and Curtis Orr, were present with the Amaze Award, which recognizes a consistently high-performing and competitive robot.

Team Brotherhood of Steel (Hunter Crouch and Kevin Vicenzi) finished the qualifying rounds in 16th place. They were invited to join the ninth-place alliance and also lost in the round of 16.

The team is coached by Charles Crouch.

Team Gear Slayerz (above) includes Alex Gruizenga, Carter Palme, Noah Johnson and Aiden DeYoung. The team received the Teamwork Award Second Place. Team Gooder Gadgets (at right), consisting of Harper Bates, Zander Williams and Kinzlee Williams was given the Create Award. (Photos provided)

PHS hosts blood drive

Last week, the Plainwell High School Red Cross Club organized a blood drive.

The drive successfully collecting 34 units of blood, which can save up to 103 lives.

The PHS Red Cross Club expressed its deep thanks for the donors and the 14 Red Cross volunteers who made this event possible. (Photos provided)

They're in Good Hands Here

From puppies and kittens to senior pets, our caring and experienced team is here to provide your pet with the very best care and a compassionate touch.

Dr. Shanna Jack
Dr. Chris Buckley
and welcoming
Dr. Melinda Kelley

Bluegrass Animal Clinic
594 10th St, Plainwell
(269) 685-5894
New Extended Hours
8:30am-1pm, 2pm-5:30pm M-F

Bluegrass Animal Clinic
Accepting New Patients

Lifelong Learners enjoy bingo

The Lifelong Learners group held its most recent event on Tuesday, Jan. 14, when participants gathered at Ransom Library for a morning of bingo and fellowship.

Ransom Library director served as the game caller.

Those in attendance enjoyed some refreshments as well as some prizes. The next Lifelong Learners event is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 14, with a movie matinee. (Photos provided)

SUMMARY

Otsego Township
January 13, 2025

The regular meeting of the Otsego Township Board was held on Monday, January 13, 2025, at the Otsego Township Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Winn.

Members Present: Gudith, Moll, Lunarde-Alexander, Bumgart, Winn.

Members Absent: Burns, Colin.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Approved minutes from the December 9th meeting.

Approved bills in the amount of $225,193.48.

Approved 2025 Assessing Contract with Benjamin Brousseau, Appraisals Plus Group.

Approved Bulk Trash agreement for 2025, 2026, & 2027 with Arrowaste.

Approved Engineering services Agreement with Prien&Newhof

Approved requesting estimate for the paving project LH400259- Cross Oaks Dr, Timber Oaks Ct - 0.27 miles

Approved requesting estimate for the paving project LH400260- East, West, North, and South Van Bruggen St. - 0.51 miles

Approved requesting estimate for the paving project LH400261- River Rd- Jefferson Rd to End of Pavement. – 1.00 miles

Approved requesting an estimate for the Reconstruction Project- LH 400254- 19th St – 112th ave to existing pavement South – 0.98 miles

Adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.
Submitted by:
Carrie Lunarde-Alexander
Otsego Township Treasurer

B SECTION
The Allegan County News & Union Enterprise
SPORTS
First Place 2012 NNA Better Newspaper Contest Award-winning Newspaper Best Sports Column
Thursday, Jan.23, 2025

Otsego's Lane Blanchard joins dad in 100-win club

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Like father, like son.

That age-old adage certainly holds true for the Otsego father-son duo of Jesse and Lane Blanchard when it comes to the wrestling mats.

During the Three Rivers Super Duals earlier this month, Lane Blanchard—a junior at Otsego High School—joined his dad in the exclusive 100-win club.

Jesse Blanchard, who reached 100 victories during his senior year at Otsego in the early 2000s, said watching his son accomplish the feat was special.

"It was much more satisfying to see Lane reach 100 varsity wins than achieving it myself," Jesse said. "He works hard and does things the right way. Lane made the decision to bump up a weight class to take on a highly ranked, undefeated wrestler for his 100th win to push himself and get prepared for the postseason.

"I think that it is very special for us to both share the honor of winning at least 100 matches. There can't be too many other Otsego wrestlers that can say that they have achieved 100 wins as father and son."

Lane was excited to share this honor with this dad … especially since he did it a little earlier in his career.

"It feels great to share this with my dad because of how competitive we are," Lane said. "And the fact that I achieved my 100th win a year sooner than he did is nice, too."

Brandy Blanchard—Jesse's wife and Lane's mom—said wrestling has been a source of bonding for Lane and Jesse.

"Watching Lane earn his 100th win was better than I could have ever expected," she said. "He has put so much work in over the years, but he has worked especially hard this last year. We are very proud of his commitment to the sport and can't wait to see where it takes him.

"Getting to see him enjoy this sport with his dad over the years has been so special and it just keeps getting better."

Deepening the connection between father and son is that they both wore the same T-shirt following their milestone wins.

That's right. Lane found the T-shirt Jesse wore on the day of his 100th win and decided to wear it for his special day.

"I was going through pictures with my dad and saw him in the shirt," Lane said. "So, I decided to wear it because it was always his favorite shirt and since we had matching shoes I figured I would wear the same shirt he did, too."

The shirt had been stored in the Blanchard's basement for years prior to Lane deciding to wear it.

"Having Lane wear the same shirt that I wore in high school the day that I recorded my 100th win was icing on the cake for me," Jesse said. "I could have never dreamed that it would work out the way that it did."

When Lane Blanchard (right) earned his 100th career win, he wore the same shirt as his dad Jesse when did when he won his 100th match. (Photo provided)

While he's excited about his special win, Lane said it is just one step on the road to what he hopes is even more success.

"It was a good milestone to hit, but I have other goals in mind," he said. "My goals for the rest of the season are to place in the top five at the (individual) state tournament."

Fennville names Klenk new softball head coach

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

FENNVILLE—When the high school softball season starts in a few months, Fennville High School will be under the leadership of a new head coach.

The Fennville athletic department announced on Wednesday, Jan. 15, that Merideth Klenk will take over the post following a three-year stint by Matthew Jefferson.

Klenk has experience coaching in the Fennville softball program, as well as previous experience at Hamilton High Schools. She also has coached travel softball with Michigan Storm Softball.

Klenk, a Hamilton graduate, has been at teacher in Fennville Public Schools since 2020. She is currently a kindergarten teacher at Fennville Elementary School.

"I am so excited for this opportunity to take over the Fennville softball program," Klenk said. "As a teacher and basketball coach in the community, I have established a love for not just the girls, academics and athletics, but also for our community as well."

Fennville athletic director Tony Stennett is excited to have Klenk leading the softball program.

"As a department, we are thrilled to announce Coach Klenk as our softball coach," he said. "Coach Klenk stood out throughout the interview process as the right person to lead our softball program.

"She has a clear vision for the program, a passion for the girls she works with and for the Fennville community."

During her playing days at Hamilton, Klenk was an All-Conference standout on the diamond. Following her graduation, she continued her career at the collegiate level at Saginaw Valley State University.

At SVSU, Klenk was an outfielder and utility player on a team that won the GLIAC Tournament in the spring of 2017.

A 2020 graduate of SVSU, Klenk began as a student teacher in Fennville elementary and has been in the district ever since. She has worked at the third-grade level, is the Migrant Program Lead Teacher and is now a kindergarten teacher at FES.

"I am excited to work with all levels of the softball program, to establish a competitive, engaging, and softball-loving program," Klenk said. "I believe with my coaching and softball experience, along with my involvement with the community, we can build a program that our girls will thrive in. I am excited for this year and years to come."

Fennville starts their season with a home doubleheader against Bangor High School on March 21. First pitch is set for 4:30 p.m.

Clippers post comeback victory against Black River

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

MARTIN—With its top two scorers limited to two combined points, the Martin girls basketball team needed someone to step up on the offensive end of the court in its game with Black River on Friday, Jan. 17.

That person was Anna Jager.

Jager scored a team-best nine points to go with nine rebounds and three assists to lead the Clippers to the 32-22 victory.

The win was the second straight for Martin (4-5) marking the first time this season the Clippers have won consecutive games.

"It's not often you win a game when your two leading scorers combine for two points, but our team has great depth," Martin coach Ben Schipper said. "With that depth, that leads to anyone being able to step up any night.

"Anna had a breakout game for us to lead us in scoring. She also had many key plays down the stretch."

Marybeth Ritchie and Kayden Jager added six points each. Ritchie also had a team-best 11 rebounds, while Kayden Jager tied for the team high in steals with five.

"Anna and Kayden ran our guard spots in the second half, putting a lot of pressure on the defense and getting good looks for their teammates," Schipper said.

Torryn Jager had a solid all-around game with five points, six rebounds and five steals. Avery Jager was limited to two points, but chipped in with seven rebounds, four assists and two blocks.

The Clippers started the game ice cold offensively, going to halftime down 16-10 after shooing 11 percent (4-of-36) shooting.

"We missed an incredible amount of shots underneath," Schipper said. "We were getting good looks, but we just could not make anything."

An 11-6 scoring edge in the third quarter narrowed Martin's deficit to 22-21.

And the defense was even better for the Clippers in the final frame, as they held Black River without a point while scoring 11 points to pull away.

A 3-pointer from Kayden Jager and four points from Torryn Harris highlighted the fourth quarter for Martin.

Schipper was pleased with the defense played against Black Rivers' Sydni Smith in the second half. After Smith scored eight points in the opening half, she was limited to two points in the second half.

"Defensively, we wanted to make sure she never touched the ball in the second half," Schipper said. "We made some adjustments at half time and held her to only two points in the second half, which was a big key for us."

Offensive rebounding was also a key for Martin, which finished with 22 offensive boards.

Avery Jager handles the ball for Martin late in the Clippers' win over Black River. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Martin honors 2019-20 girls basketball squad

The 2019-20 season was a special one for the Martin girls' basketball team.

The Clippers posted a 22-1 record that season, winning a SAC divisional championship and a district title along the way.

The team also won its regional semifinal game and was poised to host the regional final when the world was turned upside down by the start of the COVID pandemic.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association suspended and ultimately cancelled the remainder of the winter sports season, meaning that Martin squad never had closure for what was one of the best seasons in school history.

But following the Martin girls basketball game with Black River on Friday, Jan. 17, the Martin athletic department hosted a 5-year reunion for that 2019-20 squad, honoring the players for their accomplishments.

The celebration included a highlight video of the season and words written by coach Ben Schipper. Faith Guritz was also honored for surpassing the 1,000-point mark.

Martin plays well in losing cause to Black River

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

MARTIN—Success isn't always measured by the scoreboard.

According to Martin boys basketball coach Corby Callaway, his team's game against visiting Black River on Friday, Jan. 17, was one such occasion.

Because while the Clippers fell by a final score of 55-50, Callaway had nothing but praise for the effort he saw from his players.

"I'm just super proud of our guys and the way we competed out there tonight," Callaway said. "We've been dealing with a couple injuries and a couple guys missed multiple days this week due to illness. But we played our tails off.

"I told our guys after the game that it's hard to win and sometimes you do all the right things and still end up on the wrong side of the scoreboard."

Gavin Meyers and Blake Sweeting had standout performances for Martin in the losing cause.

Meyers scored a team-topping 15 points. He also snagged seven rebounds, came up with six steals and doled out five assists.

Sweeting, meanwhile, secured a double-double with 14 points and a game-topping 14 points. As if that wasn't enough, he also finished with three blocked shots.

"Blake and Gavin continue to do so much for us," Callaway said. "Both of them made big plays all night."

Not that Meyers and Sweeting were the only Clippers who made solid contributions.

"Our bench gave us big minutes, too," Callaway said.

The game started well enough for the Clippers. After holding a 14-6 scoring edge in the opening quarter, Martin outscored Black River 13-10 in the second quarter to go to halftime up 27-16.

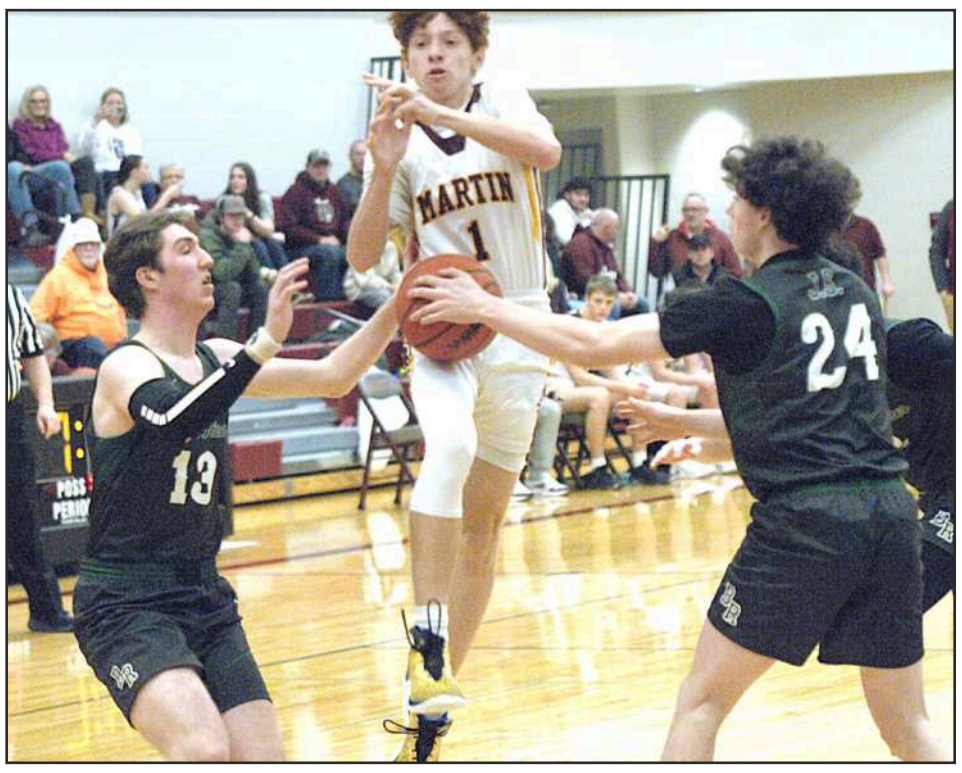
But Black River came out strong in the second half, using a 13-9 scoring advantage in the third frame to cut Martin's lead to 36-29.

The River Rats continued that momentum into the final frame, as they outscored the Clippers 26-14 to complete the comeback.

"Both teams, I thought, played very hard," Callaway said. "We battled all night."

And while he was pleased with the effort from his team, Callaway also made it clear that the expectations will remain high.

"We talked about expectations and now that we know they are capable of playing at this level, this is the baseline now," he said. "It only goes up from here."



Martin's Jason Marshall get caught between a pair of defenders. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Poor shooting hurts Saugatuck in loss against Gobles

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

GOBLES—A poor shooting night.

That's how first-year Saugatuck boys basketball coach Ty Rock summed up his team's SAC Central showdown against host Gobles on Friday, Jan. 17.

The Trailblazers were limited to two points—on a basket by Sam Bos—in the first quarter and never scored in double digits in any of the four quarters in suffering the loss by a final score of 47-27.

"There's really not a lot to say about this game," Rock said. "It was a poor shooting night, and that's the bottom line."

While Saugatuck struggled on the offensive end, Gobles started out white hot as the Tigers scored 18 first-quarter points to take an 18-2 lead.

Carter Crippen led the way for Gobles in the opening stanza, going a perfect 6-for-6 at the charity stripe.

Saugatuck did somewhat better in the second quarter, holding a 7-3 scoring edge. But the Trailblazers still went to halftime down 21-9.

Carter Miller scored nine of his team-best 12 points in the second half for Saugatuck, but it wasn't enough to dig the Trailblazers out of their early hole.

Miller finished with two of the three triples knocked down by Saugatuck, with Sammy Gamboa accounting for the other. Gamboa was second on the team with seven points.

Misael Gamboa (four points), Bos (two points) and Jordan Hoshor (two points) rounded out the scoring for the Trailblazers.

The loss dropped Saugatuck to 3-8.

Cass Stanberry goes up for a basket for Saugatuck. (Photo by Scott Sullivan)

Allegan falls to South Haven

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

SOUTH HAVEN—Too much Ly'Nique Cunningham.

Yep. That pretty much sums it up when it comes to the Allegan girls basketball team's game against host South Haven on Friday, Jan. 17.

Cunningham scored 27 points to account for nearly two-thirds of the Rams' offensive output as South Haven handed Allegan the 43-34 loss.

"It was a good battle between our two teams," Allegan coach Sharron Thompson said. "But in the end, the Rams came out on top."

Cunningham didn't wait long to set the tone for the game, scoring seven of her team's nine first-quarter points as South Haven took a 9-6 lead.

Cunningham added 10 points in the second quarter, before scoring six points in the third quarter and four points in the final frame.

That performance helped the Rams take leads of 24-12 at halftime and 37-21 at the end of the third stanza.

Allegan did hold a 13-6 scoring edge in the fourth period, led by five points from Hayden Maka. But that wasn't enough to erase the deficit it was facing.

"We struggled a bit shooting early on and then came on late in the game to close the margin to 10 points," Thompson said. "But we just ran out of time."

Maka and Ellie Ziemelis tied for team-high scoring honors for the Tigers, with each netting nine points.

Maddie Antkoviak and Jayden VandenAkker added three points each.

Allegan girls basketball coach Sharron Thompson talks to his players during a recent game. (Photo provided)

Professionals Directory Guide

New and used computers and accessories, repair & service
brother at your side
Authorized Service Center
Commitment Quality Reliability
A-Tech COMPUTERS + MORE
311 Hubbard Street
Allegan, MI
(269) 783-5465
atechccs@gmail.com
atechccs.com

VA DISABILITY
AUTO ACCIDENTS • SERIOUS INJURIES • WRONGFUL DEATH
ESTATE PLANNING & PROBATE ADMINISTRATION
COOPER LAW
269-436-8316
www.cooperlawplc.com
VA DISABILITY LAW CENTER
www.veteransdisabilitylawcenter.com
ARMED FORCES FOUNDATION
www.usarmedforcesfoundation.org
A Public, Non-Profit 501(c)(3) Charity
134 SOUTH PHELPS STREET #64 • DECATUR, MI 49045
LOCATED IN THE HISTORIC MINT EXCHANGE BUILDING DOWNTOWN DECATUR

WRAY'S
SEPTIC TANK & DEVELOPMENT CO.
A Straight Flush Beats A Full House
Residential & Commercial
1148 Lincoln Rd
Allegan, MI 49010
269-673-4791
www.wraysseptic.com

Wolf Law Group
1244 Lincoln Rd. (M-89), Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 673-2105
www.wolflawoffices.com
Heidi L. Wolf
Attorney at Law
Criminal • Divorce • Family Law • Wills & Trusts
Major Credit Cards Accepted

simple human sense.
KEN BLEEKER INSURANCE
269.672.5228 • kenbleeker.com
Auto-Owners INSURANCE

David Smith, CPIA
Senior Vice President,
Insurance Sales and Administration
david.smith@
UnitedBank4U.com
269.792.8760
1131 West Superior Street
Wayland, MI 49348
United Insurance

Allegan Eyecare
Dr. Amanda Hodge
Dr. Paul Hodge
Dr. Matthew Austin
Ph 269.673.5100
800.797.4351
Fx 269.673.1806
123 Locust Street
Allegan, MI 49010
alleganeyecare.com

ELIZABETH V. BAUER
Attorney at Law
128 East Bridge St., Plainwell
Ramsey & Bauer
elizabeth@ramseybauer.net
ph: 269-685-6883
fax: 269-685-2631
ramseybauer.net

Trailblazers surge to victory over host Gobles

Saugatuck's Kennedy Gustafson scored 14 points and led her team in rebounding in a win over Gobles. (Photo by Scott Sullivan)

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

GOBLES—It was a battle of two of the top girls basketball teams in the SAC Central Division when Saugatuck traveled to Gobles on Friday, Jan. 17.

And for the first quarter, it appeared as though the game would be nip-and-tuck, as the Trailblazers clung to a razor-thin 8-7 lead.

But as is so often the case in life, appearances proved to be deceiving.

Saugatuck erupted for 19 points in the second quarter, while limiting the Tigers to four points. That gave the Trailblazers a 27-11 halftime lead.

Saugatuck carried that momentum into the second half, outscoring Gobles 24-15 over the final two quarters to secure the 50-26 victory.

The win was the second straight for the Trailblazers, who improved to 7-1 overall and 5-0 in divisional action.

Gobles, which entered the game tied for second in the SAC Central, slipped to 7-3 overall and 2-2 in the division.

"It was a good win and put a little distance between us and Gobles as we head into the second half of the season," Saugatuck coach Kevin Tringali said.

Tali Laskowski led the offensive charge for Saugatuck, going for a game-high 19 points. She also led the team in assists.

Kennedy Gustafson, meanwhile, finished with 14 points in addition to leading the team in the rebounding department.

Maggie Loomis chipped in with a career-best 10 points to give Saugatuck a third double-digit scorer.

"I'm extremely proud of our team tonight," Tringali said. "To be down a key player on the road against a good team and see all your kids step up is such a great sign."

Tringali likes the way his team continues to evolve and players continue to step up when needed.

"We understand how important depth is," he said. "Tonight junior Maggie Loomis and senior guard Sage Larson really played really well and gave our team great confidence moving forward."

Otsego upends Paw Paw in Smalldon's return to court

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

OTSEGO—After missing the first eight games of the season as the continued recovering from an injury, sophomore Brooke Smalldon made her season debut for the Otsego girls basketball team on Friday, Jan. 17.

She showed no signs of rust, as he appeared to already be in mid-season form.

Smalldon scored 14 points to go with seven rebounds—which led the team—and three assists as the Bulldogs bested Paw Paw 66-59.

"It was good to welcome back Brooke," Otsego coach Tony Koshar said. "She looked like she hadn't missed a beat."

Smalldon's point total was good for a second-place tie on the team with Audrey Lingbeek, who also doled out a team-best five assists.

"Audrey played another stellar floor game," Koshar said.

Tessa Prough led the offensive charge for Otsego with 19 points. As—if not more—importantly, Prough held Paw Paw All-State post player AJ Rickli to 17 points, which is close to 13 points below her season average.

The win upped Otsego's record to 5-4, while Paw Paw slipped to 7-3.

"This was a good win for our girls against one of the preseason favorites in the conference," Koshar said. "The girls have shown some incredible growth and showcased in this game."

Otsego led 14-12 after one quarter but trailed 36-30 at the intermission.

Then came the third quarter, that saw the Bulldogs hold a 19-9 scoring edge to take a 49-45 lead.

A 3-pointer from Madden Fitzpatrick at the start of the third quarter started the run for Otsego before the Bulldogs came up with a steal on the ensuing Paw Paw possession and converted on a layup.

"From there, our girls basically took over," Koshar said.

Otsego extended the team to as many as 14 points at 62-48 before settling for the 7-point victory.

And while the trio of Prough, Smalldon and Lingbeek did the bulk of the scoring for Otsego, they were far from the only contributors to the win.

"I would be remiss not to mention the rest of the girls who all had big contributions during the game," Koshar said. "Reagan and Mya Engbers helped play that great defense on Rickli while also contributing some nice scoring.

"Fitzpatrick, Olivia Hildebrand, Allie Proctor and Peyton Johnson all contributed with some stellar ball handling and doing a great job defensively on (Paw Paw's) All-Conference guards Grace Mitchell and Stella Schafer."

With the season nearing the halfway point, Koshar is pleased with the progress he has seen from his young squad.

"The girls are really buying in and staying together," he said. "We could become a really dangerous team here down the stretch."

Reagan Engbers (4) handles the ball for Otsego in a recent game. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Hamilton wrestlers compete at tournament in Lowell

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

LOWELL—In a tournament that featured some of the top boys wrestling teams in the state, Hamilton finished with a 2-1 record at the Gary Rivers Memorial Duals in Lowell on Saturday, Jan. 18.

The Hawkeyes, who dropped their first match to Rockford by a paper-thin 37-36 margin, won its final two matches to place fifth.

Hamilton bested Anchor Bay 69-12 and Bay City John Glenn 35-32.

"We are very happy with the way we performed," Hamilton coach Trenton Holyfield said. "As a coach, I couldn't ask for much more from these kids. They are battle tested. I'm super proud of them."

Jake Case was one of six Hamilton wrestlers to go 3-0 for the day, doing so at 165 pounds. That moved his record to 33-0.

"Jake is also approaching 150 career wins," Holyfield said. "Jake looks to be just the eighth wrestler in Hamilton wrestling history to reach the 150-win club."

Teammate Malachi Kapenga joined the 150-win club earlier this season. Kapenga also went 3-0 for the day, wrestling at 138 pounds.

The other four Hawkeyes to go 3-0 were Chase Morrison (120 pounds), Bryce Morrison (150 pounds), Tyler Block (165 pounds) and Shane Dams (215 pounds).

As a team, Hamilton moved to 23-4 in duals.

Also on Saturday, Hamilton's girls competed at Hopkins. Korra Kapenga finished 5-0 to take first place in her weight class.

Ana Ruggles (3-1), Alyssa Volkers (3-1) and Ally Pelon (2-1) each took runner-up in their respective divisions.

On Wednesday, Jan. 15, the Hamilton boys hosted a league meet, besting Spring Lake 69-12 and Middleville 54-18.

Going 2-0 for the evening were Weston Geerlings at 106; Turner VanWieren at 120; Chase Morrison at 126; Mathew Fales at 132; Malachi Kapenga at 144; Bryce Morrison at 150; Trace Lopez at 157; Chase at 165; and Dams at 215.

Allegan boys bowling team beats Saugatuck

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

The Allegan boys bowling team made it two wins in a row in SAC competition.

After beating Gobles the previous week, the Tigers bested Saugatuck 19-11 on Thursday, January 16.

The teams split the first Baker game, with Allegan going on to win the second Baker game. It marked the Tigers high-scoring Baker game of the season.

The team also scored big in the two individual games. Levi Creguer led the Tigers in both individual matchups with scores of 184 and 212.

Adrian Dulac also had a personal-best score of 164 in game one.

Girls Basketball Results

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Fennville 29 Watervliet 39

Ceeley Howard turned in a strong performance for the Fennville girls basketball team in its SAC showdown with Watervliet on Friday, Jan. 17.

Howard finished with 14 points and seven rebounds, both of which led the Blackhawks.

But that wasn't quite enough to translate into a win, as Fennville dropped the 39-29 decision to the Panthers.

Amiyah Johnson added seven points and five steals in the losing cause.

Fennville trailed 9-7 after one quarter, 24-16 at halftime and 32-20 after three quarters.

Hopkins 42 Belding 54

Ana VanderVeen and Cora Hall combined to score 27 points in Hopkins' contest with Belding on Friday, Jan. 17.

That was the good news for the Vikings.

The bad news was that, despite that solid showing from VanderVeen and Hall, Belding still prevailed by a final score of 54-42.

VanderVeen led Hopkins with 14 points, while Hall was one point behind at 13.

Reegan Helderop chipped in with five points.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ALLEGAN COUNTY
PROPOSED STATE AND FEDERAL APPLICATION FOR OPERATING AND/OR CAPITAL ASSISTANCE

All citizens are advised that Allegan County has prepared an application for State of Michigan financial assistance for fiscal year 2026, as required under Act 51 of the Public Acts of 1951, as amended, and for federal assistance as required under the federal transit laws, as amended.

Allegan County is requesting a total of $2,319,517 through the following funding program(s):

Funding Source(s)	Operating Amount	Capital Amount Per Project	Total Amount
State Formula Operating	$765,952	N/A	$765,952
Federal Sec 5311 Operating	$450,715	N/A	$450,715
Section 5316 Job Access Reverse Commute	$102,300	N/A	$102,300
Section 5317 New Freedom Program	N/A	Mobility Management	$ 62,500
Surface Transportation Program (STP)	N/A	Equipment & Facility	$ 40,800
SEC 5339 - Bus and Bus Facilities	N/A	Buses	$897,250
			$2,319,517

Allegan County ensures that the level and quality of transportation service is provided without regard to race, color, or national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For more information regarding our Title VI obligations or to file a complaint please contact us at the address given below.

The proposed application is on file at Allegan County Transportation, 750 Airway Drive, Allegan, MI 49010, and may be reviewed during a 30-day period (January 23, 2025 – February 23, 2025), between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. or on the web at www.allegancounty.org/transportation . Click "Policies & Applications".

Written comments regarding the application and/or written requests for a public hearing to review the application must be received by February 23, 2025. If a hearing is requested, notice of the scheduled date, time, and location will be provided at least 10 days in advance.

Submittals should be sent to Allegan County Transportation, 750 Airway Drive, Allegan, MI 49010 or by email to Transportation@allegancounty.org

Public Notices

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on February 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Matthew Eldean and Jami Eldean, husband and wife and Matthew Eldean, Trustee of the Matthew Eldean Trust Dated 12/19/2002
Original Mortgagee: Lake Michigan Credit Union
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): None
Date of Mortgage: August 26, 2015
Date of Mortgage Recording: October 23, 2015
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $294,999.91
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Laketown, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: That part of the East 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 2, Town 4 North, Range 16 West, Laketown Township, Allegan County, Michigan, described as: Commencing at the West 1/4 Corner of said Section 2; thence South 89 degrees 16 minutes 58 seconds East 2649.64 feet along the North line of said Southwest 1/4 to the Central 1/4 Corner of said Section 2; thence South 00 degrees 03 minutes 10 seconds West 805.00 feet along the East line of said Southwest 1/4 to the place of beginning; thence South 00 degrees 03 minutes 10 seconds West 366.34 feet along said East line; thence North 89 degrees 56 minutes 50 seconds West 578.31 feet; thence Northwesterly 67.99 feet along the arc of a 60.00 foot radius curve to the left, the chord of which bears North 34 degrees 18 minutes 26 seconds West 64.41 feet; thence Northwesterly 46.17 feet along the arc of a 50.00 foot radius curve to the right, the chord of which bears North 40 degrees 19 minutes 03 seconds West 44.54 feet; thence Northwesterly 34.55 feet along the arc of a 383.00 foot radius curve to the left, the chord of which bears North 16 degrees 27 minutes 04 seconds West 34.54 feet; thence North 69 degrees 24 minutes 38 seconds East 698.15 feet to the place of beginning, Laketown Township, Allegan County, Michigan.
Common street address (if any): 4657 Arbor Trl, Holland, MI 49423-8901
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: January 2, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1549014
(01-02)(01-23)

Public Notices

Continued from, Page B4

Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of Randall J. Mulder Date of Birth:*XXX
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Randall J. Mulder, died August 6, 2024 .
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Clayton J. Mulder , personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
1/15/2025
James K. Schepers P42465
James K. Schepers P.C., 6617 Crossings Dr. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
616-512-4916
Clayton J. Mulder
2922 Deerfly Lane
Shelbyville, MI 49344
616-307-8570

TO ALL PERSONS, including: (specify non-custodial parent's name here, if applicable) whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: Sarah Enid Conley has filed a petition for name change.
A name change hearing will be held on March 3, 2025 at 9:00am at 113 Chestnut St, Allegan, MI 49010 before Judge Hon. Jolene Clearwater (P74848)., to change the name of: Sarah Enid Conley to Sarah Enid Jennings

---

FORECLOSURE NOTICE THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTN HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. MORTGAGE SALE—Default has been made in the terms and conditions of a Mortgage made by Kevin M. Williams, a single man, of 2909 Lavita Lane, Dallas, Texas 75234 ("Mortgagor") to BankUnited, N.A., a national banking association, of 7815 NW 148 Street, Miami Lakes, Florida 33016 ("Mortgagee") dated September 25, 2020 and recorded with the Allegan County Register of Deeds, State of Michigan, on September 30, 2020 in Liber 4517, Page 629, Document #2020019993 (the "Mortgage"). The sum claimed to be due and owing on said Mortgage as of the date of this Notice is One Million Three Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy and 10/100 Dollars ($1,325,770.10) including principal and interest. Under the power of sale contained in said Mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Thursday, March 6, 2025, at 9 a.m., local time, said Mortgage will be foreclosed at a sale at public auction to the highest bidder at that place where Circuit Court is held in Allegan County of the premises and land described in the Mortgage, or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay the amount due on the Mortgage, together with interest, advances, legal costs, and charges and expenses, including the attorney fee, and also any sums which may be paid by the undersigned necessary to protect its interest. Said premises are situated in the City of Otsego, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as: Commencing 66 feet South 75 degrees 40 minutes East from Southeast corner of Fair and Charles Street, thence South 75 degres 40 minutes 66 feet, thence South 14 degrees 20 minutes West 165 feet, thence North 75 degrees 40 minutes West 66 feet, thence North 14 degrees 20 minutes East 165 feet to beginning, Section 23, Town 1 North, Range 12 West. Parcel Identification Number: 54-023-057-00 Commonly known as 218 Charles St, Otsego, MI 49078 The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of such sale unless determined abandoned in accordance with 1948 CL 600.3241 or 600.3241a, as the case may be, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Dated: January 14, 2025 BankUnited, N.A., a National Banking Association Ingrid A. Jensen (616) 608-1107 Attorney for Mortgagee Clark Hill PLC 200 Ottawa NW, Suite 500 Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(01-23)(02-20)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
48TH CIRCUIT COURT-FAMILY DIVISION
ALLEGAN COUNTY
PUBLICATION OF HEARING
CASE NO. 24-68554-05- NA
PETITION NO. I
Court Address: 113 Chestnut, Allegan, MI 49010
TO:ALLEGAN COUNTY NEWS
241 HUBBARD STREET
ALLEGAN, MI 49010
IN THE MATTER OF: LYRIC WELTY
A hearing regarding PUTATIVE FATHER HEARING will be conducted by the court on FEBRUARY 20, 2025 at 9:00 AM in ALLEGAN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT - FAMILY DIVISION before REFEREE CRAIG J SEWELL. You have the right to an attorney and the right to a trial by a judge or jury.
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that CODY WELTY personally appear before the court at the time and place stated above. This hearing may result in the Termination of your parental rights. 113 Chestnut St. Allegan, MI 49010, Family Division.
Dated: 1/13/25
Judge Jolene A. Clearwater (P74848)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on February 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Amy Sayvongsa and Chris Velazquez, wife and husband
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): PHH Mortgage Corporation
Date of Mortgage: August 15, 2022
Date of Mortgage Recording: August 23, 2022
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $383,513.09
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Clyde, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 3 and the North 1/2 of Lot 2 of Atkins Plat, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 8 of plats, Page 11, Allegan County Records
Common street address (if any): 2259 Atkins Rd, Fennville, MI 49408-9464
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: January 23, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1551051
(01-23)(02-13)

Peek at the Past

From the pages of The Allegan News and The Allegan County News and Gazette:

Jan. 23, 1950

South Haven makes it hard, but AHS wins: The Allegan Tigers won a nip-and-tuck basketball game from South Haven Friday night, 45-40.

The game was played before a full house on the local floor and this win gave the Tigers their second over the Rams and their tenth straight of the season.

Both teams started out at a slow pace, but it didn't take long for the Tigers to turn on full steam in the first quarter as they outscored the Rams, 16-9.

In the first stanza, Allegan made eight out of eight free shots and that was the deciding factor of the game as both teams tallied 16 baskets with South Haven making eight charity shots to Allegan's 13.

Allegan led at the half by a 26-17 score, with Ray Harris connecting on his one-handed push shots in the second period to lead his teammates to a comfortable margin that South Haven never overcame.

Harris took top honors with eight baskets and one free shot for a 17-point total. Chuck Taylor was next with 10 points to his credit. Are Pratt led South Haven with 14 points.

An M89/M40 committee meeting produced disagreements about whether to focus on corridor expansion or an alternative route for the future of Allegan County transportation. (From left) County Commissioner Bill Sikkel, moderator Joyce Tuharsky, Allegan City Manager Rob Hillard and Allegan County Road Commission Manager Bill Nelson listen to debate. (Photo by Dan Kelsey)

Jan. 23, 1975

Ducks nearly turn rescue into Miner Lake ice follies: Six stubborn ducks, squatting in the middle of Miner Lake for more than a week, almost turned a rescue effort into the ice follies Monday afternoon as Allegan firemen sought to free them from ice they weren't frozen in.

Fire chief R.G. "Bud" Blanz, acting on a call from the Department of Natural Resources, took a fire truck and some ingenious homemade, but untested, ice rescue equipment to the lake where a resident had reported some ducks had been frozen in the ice since Jan. 12.

With Blanz were firemen Ken Cook and Mel Taylor and DNR district conservationist Bob VanderRoest. Miner Lake resident Ralph White also dropped by to help.

For Blanz, it was a two-fold operation: He wanted to save the stranded ducks, but he wanted to test the rescue equipment he'd had for two years as well.

The Miner Lake resident called VanderRoest Monday to report the ducks hadn't moved in some time and that she feared they might starve to death. He responded by calling Blanz, who jumped at the opportunity.

Ralph White spralls on the ice in hot, rather, cold, pursuit of a fleeing fowl. Ken Cook (middle) holds down one duck and Taylor obviously has his hands full.

Jan. 27, 2000

Corridor study: County officials still seeking common ground: Planners have begun to show a considerable urgency as to doing something to improve one of the primary arteries of traffic flow in Allegan County.

The M-89/M-40 corridor routes cars and trucks in the most direct line possible from Plainwell and Otsego in the southeast through Allegan in the middle to Holland in the northwest. But bottlenecks along the way make travel times uncertain. Access to the highway from rural feeder roads can be time consuming and frustrating.

Officials have discussed bypasses of cities, passing lanes and alternate routes during a Phase II study of the ongoing problem.

Meanwhile, meetings of the M-89/M-40 working communities come and go, and solutions remain little more than talking points. Principals to the discussions have trouble reaching consensus on even basic questions such as whether to focus on the long term or the short term.

Actual road rebuilding or restructuring appears a far-off dream.

A session at Otsego City Hall the morning of Monday, Jan. 24, helped the committee spiral a little closer to the meat of the issue.

West Michigan Regional Planning Commission director Joyce Tuharsky, moderating the meeting, opened by saying the Michigan Department of Transportation puts money int eh pot for the long term.

"As a community, we're looking at what we have to do today," she said.

Jan. 23, 2020

Choirs awaken 'Sleeping Beauty': Allegan Public Schools' seventh-and-eighth-grade choirs together with TrebleMakers—the district's fourth-and-fifth-grade youth choirs—will perform Disney's "Sleeping Beauty Kids" on Friday, Jan. 24.

The combined cast of more than 100 students will take the stage starting at 7 p.m. at the Allegan Public Schools Performing Arts Center.

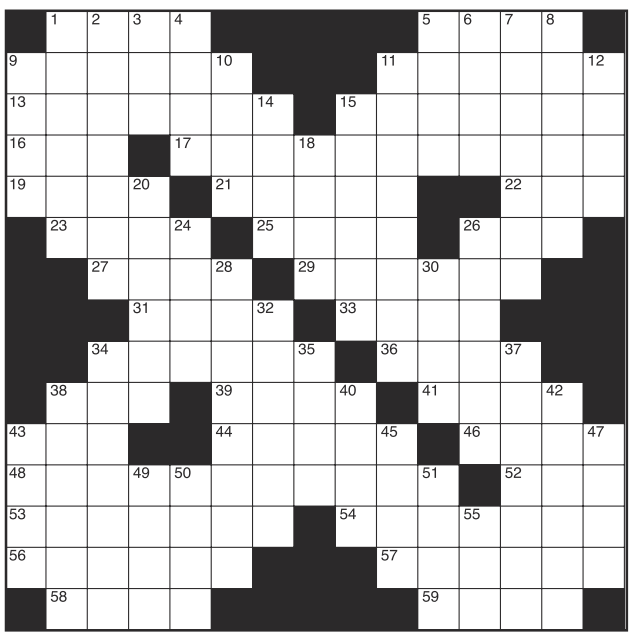
The family-friendly one-act show follows the familiar fairy tale of Princess Aurora, who is cursed by the evil Maleficent and sent to a deep slumber. It is up to Prince Phillip and three good fairies to break the curse and rescue the princess.

The cast includes Jenna Tyrell as Maleficnet; Rose Evans as Sleeping Beauty (Briar Rose); Gavin Clark as Prince Phillip; Sully Morgan as Young Prince; Ariana Pabis-Kaba as good fairy Merryweather; Kayle Vanderveen as good fairy Fauna; Mackenzie Hunt as good fairy Flora; Annalecis Garcia King as Queen Stefanie; Jessie Smith as Stefan; Elliot Leece as King Hubert; and Kayla Hinson and Reyna Hernandez as the narrators.

Tickets are $2 and are available at the door that evening.

—Compiled by Jason Wesseldyk

Crossword



CLUES ACROSS
1. 'Loser' rocker
5. Partner to relaxation
9. Mixing
11. Winged nut
13. Expression of blame
15. Vast ocean
16. Comedienne Gasteyer
17. Multiply
19. Meat from a pig (French)
21. Related
22. Rocker Stewart
23. Surprise completely
25. Loon
26. Canister
27. Large, deep-bodied fish
29. Takes forcefully
31. Oil cartel
33. Palmer and Hepburn are two
34. More than one
36. Places down purposefully
38. Pitching statistic
39. Type of sword
41. Witnesses
43. Body part
44. Mixes slowly
46. Satisfy
48. Strong belief
52. One's physique (slang)
53. More frightening
54. Soup cracker
56. Teaches
57. One who carries something
58. Actor Sean
59. Changes

CLUES DOWN
1. __ Aires, city
2. Coarse grass
3. Type of gene
4. Door handle
5. Competition
6. Muslim ruler title
7. Hunting expeditions
8. Large mollusk
9. Bind securely
10. Former U.S. presidential candidate
11. 2-point plays in football
12. Breezed through
14. Type setting
15. Felt for
18. Codified rules
20. Small dome
24. Chevrotain
26. Male reproductive gland
28. Controversial beliefs
30. Z Z Z
32. One who confines another
34. Bishop
35. Garlands
37. Bird that flies by the coast
38. Optical device
40. Greek goddess of discord
42. Some are 'Rolling'
43. Formerly (archaic)
45. Thrust a knife into
47. German river
49. Atomic #26
50. Make a grotesque face
51. Primordial matter of the universe
55. Chinese philosophical principle

■ see **Solution**, Page B4

Deaths

Jan. 1, 2025
RUBY ELAINE OWENS, 77, Plainwell
LARRY LEE BUTCHER JR, 59, Allegan
Jan. 3, 2025
LANE ARLYN KNOLL, 73, Laketown Twp.
CYNTHIA LYNN MOORE, 69, Lee Twp.
AARON EUGENE SMITH, 52, Clyde Twp.
Jan. 4, 2025
EARLINE HUDSON, 89, Clyde Twp.
Jan. 6, 2025
BONNIE LOU ARENDSEN, 73, Overisel Twp.
Jan. 8, 2025
CHRISTINE ANNE HAKEWESSELL, 87, Holland
NEVEL OVERTON SLACK, 82, Watson Twp.
Jan. 9, 2025
PAUL JEFFREY CERBIN, 71, Wayland Twp.
RICHARD KENNETH ALBRECHT, 79, Douglas
Jan. 10, 2025
HARRY STEINBERG, 92, Otsego Twp.
SANDRA GAIL DEGROOT, 82, Dorr Twp.

Marriages

The following people applied for a marriage license between Jan. 7 and Jan. 15:

DANIEL ROSS KOCKA, South Haven, and **LAUREN THERESE CONNER**, South Haven
SOLOMON LEE KLAASEN, Allegan, and **KATHERINE JEAN HARRISON**, Hudsonville
JOSHUA RYAN MILLS, Otsego, and **ASHLEY NICOLE FULTON**, Otsego
JORDAN DAVID MATZKE, Holland, and **JOSIE ANN WITT**, Holland
DEREK THOMAS BROUWER, Dorr, and **MORGAN JOCHELE KORF**, Ada
BRANDON JOHN LUBBERS, Hamilton, and **LIZA MARIE KLINGENBERG**, Dorr
DARRIN SCOTT ROSE, Otsego, and **SANDY LYNN BEEMAN**, Otsego

SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

				9				
	4	6						
8				1			7	
	5		7					2
	8	3			2			1
		2	8			6		
						3	6	7
		7				5		
	9	1			5			

(See Solution Page B4)

RELIGION SECTION

All of our New Year's Resolutions have one unified purpose. We want to save money, lose weight, work on our health, improve our brain, or anything else because we want to make ourselves into a better person. In other words, we want to become a self-made man or woman.

That is our goal because what most of us really want is to be favorably and admired by others. Some go so far as to aspire to becoming a big-name Social Media Influencer who is followed by hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of others.

The harsh reality is that none of us are truly self-made individuals. All of us 'know a guy or woman,' or rely on 'people' to help us reach our goals. Sometimes they are treated, as the ultra-egotistical Gloria Swanson referred to them in her film Sunset Boulevard, "all you little people." We don't want to be relegated to the masses because 'little people' do not control or guide their own destiny.

That applies to our spiritual safari, as well. Father John Wesley pointed out, "there is no such thing as solitary Christianity." Perhaps he developed that idea after reading and reflecting on St. Paul's first twelve verses in the third chapter of his Letter to the Ephesians. There, he briefly outlined his connection and reliance on the Gentile community in the city and surrounding area.

Just as importantly, he gently reminds this first generation of Christians that they are not self-made followers of Jesus. They have been spiritually and materially supported by fellow members around the Middle East. Further, they are the beneficiaries of centuries of Judaism which led up to the birth and life of Jesus. Indeed, without Jesus there would be no Christianity and no hope for eternal life.

It is an important lesson for all of us to constantly keep in mind. From time to time, every congregation has an individual or small group who want to remake their church into their own agenda or image. Often, that means old and meaningful traditions are thrown out, beloved and comforting hymns are swept away, and leadership is abruptly changed. Change is inevitable and necessary, but revolution is another matter.

One of the many take-home lessons from this passage is our interconnectedness with one another, and even with members of churches outside our own denomination. Above all, it is the essential task to carefully discern what God wants us to do to build up his kingdom.

G C Stoppel
Priest Associate
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Allegan, MI

Directory of Area Churches

Allegan Assembly of God
424 DeLano St, Allegan
Pastors Tim Heath & Paul Hays
Church: 673-6577

Allegan Bible Church
412 S. Sherman, Allegan
Pastor Jon Gruss
Church: 673-6831

Allegan Christian Center
700 Ely St., Allegan
Paul Knuckles, Pastor
Church: 673-2921

Allegan County Jail
Chaplain Sarah Montgomery
Phone: 673-0350

Allegan United Methodist Church
Corner Walnut & Trowbridge streets, Allegan
Pastor Julia Humenik
Church: 673-4236;

At the Master's Feet
814 21st St., Otsego
269-694-6897
Paster Ray Brown

Blessed Sacrament Church
110 N. Cedar Street, Allegan
Fr. Simon Manjooran
Church: 673-4455

Bloomingdale Bible Church
210 Chestnut at Pine NW
Bloomingdale
Ofc. 269-427-2101

Bravo Community Church
5587 113th Ave., Fennville
Pastor Duane Terpstra
616-886-1214

Burnips United Methodist
4241 30th, Burnips
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
616-896-8410

Casco United Methodist Church
880 66th Street, South Haven
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
269-227-3328
www.cascoumc.org

Chicora Country Chapel
4399 108th Ave., Allegan
Pastor Herb Curry
Phone: 521-7657

Christ Community Church
3370 113th Ave., Allegan
www.alleganccc.org ·
(269) 673-2329
Pastor Wally Coots

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
687 Linn Street, Allegan
Church: 673-9617

Church of God - Otsego
112 Kalamazoo St., Otsego
Pastor Stephen Burrow Sr.
269-694-9481
www.otsegocog.com

Corner Bible Church
4001 124th Allegan
673-5995
www.cornerbiblechurch.com

CrossWind Community Church
1632 142nd Avenue
Dorr, MI 49323
616-359-9013
Pastor Tommy Boutell

Dunningville Reformed Church
2559 M-40, Allegan
Church: 751-5894
Pastor Eric Burrows-Stone
dunningville.org/index.html

East Martin Christian Reformed Church
510-118th Ave., Martin
269-672-5746
www.eastmartincrc.org

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
101 North Walnut St, Allegan
Office: 673-2254

Faith Baptist Church
2846 125th Ave., Allegan
John Looman, Pastor
673-5040 1-888-354-3272

Fennville Assembly of God
5897 124th Ave.
Fennville, MI 49408
269-561-2683

Fennville United Methodist Church
5849 124th St., Fennville
269-561-5048
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

First Presbyterian Church
200 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church: 673-4631
www.fpcallegan.org
Pastor Sheri Harris
10:30 service time.

First Baptist Church
1290 32nd St., Allegan
Service at 10:00am
Pastors Nathan Smith & Brendon Bayley
www.fbcallegan.com

First Baptist Church of Otsego
247 E Allegan St., Otsego
(269) 694-4160
firstbaptist@fbcotsego.org

First Church of God
1313 Marshall Street, Allegan
269 673-3881
www.pathtohim.org
Pastor, Tim Secord

First Congregational Church
323 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church Office: 673-3139

First Congregational Church
120 W. Morrell St., Otsego
269-694-6085
Pastor Lenny Luchetti

First Presbyterian Church of Plainwell
303 East Bridge St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
Pastor Ruth Lowry 685-5990

Friendship Bible Church
104 Baker St., Hopkins, MI
Pastor Chris Cronk and Worship Pastor Tony Caldarona
Office 793-7929

Ganges Baptist Church
6577 122nd Avenue, Fennville
269-543-4203
11AM each Sunday

Grace Church of Hamilton
3690 Lincoln Rd. P.o. Box 97
Hamilton Mi 49419
269.264.4900
Gracechurchofhamilton@gmail.com

Haven Church
PO Box 1
4691 Oak Street, Hamilton
(269)751-7300
Pastor Mike Drew
FB:havenreformedchurch

Hope Lutheran Church
290 12th St., Plainwell
(269) 685-1348
Pastor Nicole Smith
Worship 10:30am; S. School 9:15am

Hopkins Community Reformed Church
2142 128th Ave., Hopkins
(269) 793-7361
hopkinscommunitychurch.net

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 N. Maple St., Hopkins
(269) 793-7323
Pastor Kelsey French

Horseshoe Community Bible Church
4950 104th Avenue, Grand Junction
269-521-4580 ·
Pastor Don Miller

Immanuel Lutheran Church
631 Grand Street, Allegan
Church: 673-3335
Rev. Christopher Laughlin

Journey Family Church
514 W. Van Buren St. Gobles
628-2288
SSunday 9am and 11am
Rev. Gary Napp

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness
2199 Taft Road, Allegan
Phone: 673-6179

Living Waters Community Church
5458 M-89, Fennville
Service: 10:30 Sundays
Pastor Andrew Leach
269-561-5277

M-40 North Church of God
1900 M-40, Allegan
Pastor Nathan Strom
Church: 673-4412

Martin Reformed Church
1073 W. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor: Matthew Hendricks
672-5596

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor Margaret Stoken
269-672-7097
www.martinumc.org

Merson Church
3313 102nd Ave., Gobles, MI
Pastor Alan Carson
Office: 673-5274
www.mersonchurch.org

Montage Ministries
"A Community in Worship"
Griswold Auditorium
Tuesdays 6:30-8:00pm

Monterey Center United Methodist Church
3022 130th Ave.
Monterey Center, 49328
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
793-7288

Mt. Calvary M.B. Church
5425 105th Ave., Pullman
Pastor Everett Belue
269-382-3405

New Hope Baptist Church
2011 Lincoln Road (M-40 N)
Pastor Tadd Butler
673-1938

Northbridge Church
8824 Douglas, Kalamazoo
269-385-4378 ·
www.northbridge.cc

Northpoint Ministries
10976 M40 (M40/CR390)
Gobles MI · 269.628.9199
Pastor Gary Lounsberry
Sunday Worship: 11am

OAKLAND CRC
4460 38th Street
Hamilton. Mi. 49419
616 688 5290
Pastor Mark Vande Zande

Otsego United Methodist Church
223 E Allegan St. Otsego MI
10:00 a.m. Worship
Reverend Dan Minor
Otsegomethodistchurch.org

Peace Lutheran Church
805 S. Wilmott St., Otsego
www.peaceotsego.com
694-6104

Pearl United Methodist Church
1689 56th St., Fennville
269-561-5048 Worship 9:30 am
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal M.I. Pentecostal Church of God I.M
2281 57th St, Fennville
Wed/Miércoles @ 7:00 pm
Sunday/Domingo @ 10:00 am
Worship Service @ 11:00am
Rev. Jeremias & Maribel Gaytan
231) 923-6887 - (231) 923-6959
Email: gytnj@yahoo.com

Plainwell First Baptist Church
404 W. Bridge St., Plainwell
(269) 685-8888
Pastor George Osborn

Plainwell First United Methodist Church
200 Park St. Plainwell
269-685-5113
www.fumcplainwell.com

Rectify Church
247 N. Main St., Allegan
616-218-1556
Pastor Sarah Montgomery

Refreshing Springs Ministries
201 Briggs St., Allegan
616-510-7416
Pastor Adrian Hall

Restoration Christian Community
Live service 10:00 am Sundays
RestorationChristianCommunity.org
Pastor Austin T Kreutz
269 567 8330

River of Life Church
605 W. Allegan, Otsego
269-672-9904
www.alleganchurch.com

Seventh Day Adventist Church
229 Cutler Street, Allegan
Dan Rachor, Pastor
Church: 673-3284

Shelbyville United Methodist Church
938 124th Ave., Shelbyville
672-7097 - Church office
Pastor Margaret Stoken

South Monterey United Methodist Church
Pastor Kelsey French
Church: 793-7323

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
11850 9 Mile Rd., Shelbyville
269-664-4345
Service: Sundays 9:30 am

Saint John's Church Of God In Christ
716 Academy St, Allegan
Rev. Jeremiah Johnson Sr.
Phone: 673-8590—673-3007

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1764 34th St., Allegan
Pastor Ronald Kruse 673-2079
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

St. Margaret's Catholic Church
766 S. Farmer St., Otsego
269-694-6311

Third Coast Community Church
www.thirdcoastff.org |
269.857.5633
6069 Blue Star Hwy, Saugatuck, MI 49453
Sunday Worship: 10:00am

Trowbridge Community Church
355 26th Street, Otsego
Pastor Mykel Hall, Pastor
Church: 673-5502

The River Flows with Hope and Healing
1652 M-40 North, Allegan
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Unity Baptist Church
35 14 12th St. Wayland
Pastor Kelly Ryan
Cell # (269) 330-2217

Watson Bible Church
1626 116th St., Otsego
Pastor Tim Morris
672-2166

Wayland Community Church
502 West Superior, Wayland
(616) 877-6134
Worship Sunday @ 10:30am

UniPac "Contract Packaging Specialist" 809 Airway Dr. – Highland Industrial Park 269-673-8488

RAPA Rapa Electric, Inc. 1173 Lincoln Rd., Allegan 673-3155/673-3157

Waanders Concrete Co. Ready-Mix Concrete 3169 Babylon Rd., Allegan 673-6352

Allegan Eyecare Complete Eye Care for the Entire Family 123 Locust St., Allegan 673-5100 • 1-800-797-4351 www.alleganeyecare.com

LEGG LUMBER & Hardware Where the Builders Go! We deliver 730 River St., Allegan 269.673.4470 www.legglumber.com

Ted's Auto Body Shop, Inc 892 34th St., Allegan 269-673-2309 Fax: 269-686-8508 tedsab1@gmail.com

A&A ANTKOVIAK & ANTKOVIAK PC For all your legal services 416 Hubbard St, Allegan • (269) 673-8468 antkoviak@frontier.com

Furniture Mattress Appliance COUNTRY HOUSE FURNITURE Your Complete Home Furnishing Store! 212 Trowbridge, Allegan, MI (269) 686-1155 8337 M-140 Hwy., South Haven, MI (269) 637-6135 www.countryhousefurniture.net

God Integrity Vision Encouragement He Opens People's Eyes www.HOPKINSPROPANE.com

To sponsor this page and join these community-minded businesses, call 269-673-5534.

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices Cheri Sleeman Schulz Associate Broker, REALTOR 269-720-4735 cherischulz@bhhsmi.com 430 Western Avenue, Allegan